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TODAY: LEISURE Evening in Bloom, Page 10

Suharto's Landslide Exceeds Forecasts

In the Early Count in Indonesia, 83% of Vote Goes to Ruling Party

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

JAKARTA — Indonesia's highly ritualized parliamentary election system worked Thursday, with people across the country standing in long, dutiful lines to cast their votes and with the governing party heading for the overwhelming victory it had predicted.

Although this has been the most violent campaign in recent history, with more than 200 people killed, election day was largely peaceful.

But on the eve of the vote, on Wednesday, as many as 22 people were reported killed in four attacks by separatist guerrillas in East Timor. (Page 4.)

At midnight Thursday, with about 10 percent of the votes counted, the Golkar party of President Suharto was far exceeding its own projections, with 83.17 percent of the total. It has won every election since the current system was put in place in 1971.

The largely Muslim United Development Party, whose noisy rallies had become the outlet for anti-government protests and violent confrontations, trailed far behind with 14.45 percent of the vote.

The People's Democratic Party, which had disintegrated into infighting since the government engineered the ouster last year of its popular leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, had just 2.38 percent of the vote.

The government's apparent margin of victory was greater than in

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John MacDougall/Agence France-Presse

President Suharto, his ballot in hand, leaving the voting booth on Thursday in Jakarta.

U.S. Renews Goals in Bosnia

Blair Backs Clinton's Call To Finish Job

By John F. Harris
Washington Post Service

LONDON — President Bill Clinton warned Thursday that international efforts to bring stability to postwar Bosnia and rebuild its economy are behind schedule, and that the job may not be done by a June 1998 deadline for withdrawing NATO troops unless "we work like crazy in the next 13 months."

Following his first extended meeting with the newly elected British prime minister, Tony Blair, Mr. Clinton said both of them believed there had been too much attention paid to when troops would leave, and not enough to training a civilian peace force and other tasks necessary for long-term peace.

"What I want to do is stop talking about what date we're leaving on," Mr. Clinton said, "and start talking about what were going to do on the only date that matters, which is tomorrow."

"I agree with that very strongly indeed," Mr. Blair said.

His quick assent reflected a day in which the two leaders — who have similar backgrounds and even share some of the same political advisers — basked in each other's presence and showered each other with praise at every turn.

Mr. Clinton's statement served to defuse what could potentially be tension between his government and Mr. Blair's over Bosnia. Robin Cook, the foreign minister for the new Labour Party government, recently warned that Britain had no intention of keeping troops in Bosnia if the United States pulled out. "One out, all out," Mr. Cook said.

Mr. Clinton's answer, however, also implied that he would consider keeping the roughly 8,000 U.S. troops now stationed in Bosnia past the current deadline — a move that would surely stir domestic political opposition for him.

After Mr. Clinton's statement, his officials played down the prospect that the president might seek an extension of the NATO force. The White House deputy national security adviser, James Steinberg, said his boss was merely trying to emphasize the urgency of speeding up Bosnia's development, not floating a trial balloon about keeping forces there past next summer.

Also Thursday, Mr. Clinton made his first public comments on this week's election of a moderate cleric, Mohammed Khatami, as president of Iran. "It's interesting and it's hopeful," he said.

But he added that there could be no hope of warmer U.S. relations with the Islamic state until there was demonstrable evidence that it had renounced terrorism and stopped developing weapons of mass destruction.

On Northern Ireland, Mr. Clinton said any new progress in the peace process would have to await elections there next week. Reciting the Blair government's line, Mr. Clinton said that Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, should not be admitted to peace talks unless it agreed to a complete cease fire.

After their formal meetings, Mr. Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton joined Mr. Blair and his wife, Cherie, for a dinner.

Mr. Clinton was to return to Washington later Thursday evening.

Fred Barbash of The Washington Post reported:

The press here often measures the global stature of British public figures on the extent to which they achieve recognition from the United States. On a scale of 1 to 10, being snubbed by a president is traditionally an embarrassing 1; being treated "cordially" is a 5. Being treated as a pal singing from the same hymnal — as Mr. Blair was Thursday — is a definite 10, Paula Jones and U.S. Supreme Court decisions notwithstanding.

See ALLIES, Page 7

Scott Applewhite/The Associated Press

Prime Minister Tony Blair, left, accompanying President Clinton after a press conference Thursday in the garden at No. 10 Downing Street.

Kohl Goes for Broke on Gold Ploy

Chancellor Stakes Reputation on Maneuver to Help Create Euro

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — If there were any doubts left about the tortured hoops through which European politicians are prepared to squeeze themselves in the name of a single European currency, consider what just happened in Germany.

In the space of a few hours Wednesday night, Chancellor Helmut Kohl drew the lines for a battle of titanic proportions with the Bundesbank — the prestigious central bank — and, in the process, embarked on his riskiest political gambit since Germany's reunification in 1990 when, as now, he overrode the economists' advice in the name

NEWS ANALYSIS

of a political vision and lived to count enormous costs.

Ostensibly, the fight with the Bundesbank is over plans by his finance minister, Theo Waigel, to revalue Germany's huge gold reserves to plug a budget gap that yawns between the government and its overwhelming desire to fulfill the fiscal criteria for joining the new European currency to be created in 1999.

Mr. Kohl, Europe's leading proponent of the currency to be called the euro, has staked his political reputation on its creation. Without Germany, the project would collapse.

The Bundesbank rejected the revaluation proposals that would raise an easy $7 billion to narrow the budget gap. The government promptly told the Bundesbank that it would change the law so that the revaluation could take place.

What was at stake was much more than economics. For in pressing to revalue gold reserves, the government was tacitly acknowledging the same message that is emerging from the runoff ballot in France's parliamentary elections — that European voters do not want to be squeezed into the kind of fiscal straitjacket required by the single currency, and so the rules for the new currency or even the new currency itself, must be softened.

In other words, if politicians do not

See GOLD, Page 7

Waigel Rebuffs Critics

Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, tried to reassure markets that Europe's monetary union would go ahead on schedule. Page 13.

Philippe Seguin, a possible French prime minister, said Paris would honor its word to join the union. Page 5.

AGENDA

U.S. Holds Line on NATO Expansion

SINTRA, Portugal (WP) — The United States signaled its desire Thursday to restrict the first wave of NATO expansion to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. But it also sought to reassure the also-rans that the expansion process would continue, despite Russian opposition.

Addressing a NATO meeting here, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright elevated the bar for NATO membership to those countries that have cleared "the highest hurdles of reform." U.S. officials later said the Clinton administration favored a "smaller" group of countries.

A Ukraine-NATO charter, Page 2.

The Dollar		
New York	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.6963	1.6955
Pound	1.6403	1.639
Yen	116.25	115.865
FF	5.7334	5.7285

The Dow		
	Thursday close	previous close
-23.09	7330.18	7353.27

S&P 500		
change	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
-3.13	844.08	847.21

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The IHT on-line http://www.iht.com

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Turkey's Fertile Crescent Is Reborn

THE AMERICAS ..... **Page 3.**
Oklahoma Prosecution Ends Its Case

CIA Memory Goes Blank

Secret Files on Iran Destroyed Decades Ago

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The CIA, which has repeatedly pledged for more than five years to make public the files from its secret mission to overthrow the government of Iran in 1953, now says that it destroyed or lost almost all the documents decades ago.

Two successive directors of Central Intelligence, Robert Gates in 1992 and James Woolsey Jr. in 1993, publicly pledged that the Iran records would be made public as part of the CIA's "openness" initiatives.

But they did not know there was virtually nothing left to open: almost all of the documents were destroyed in the early 1960s.

"If anything of substantive importance that was an only copy was destroyed at any time, this is a terrible breach of faith with the American people and their ability to understand their own history," Mr. Woolsey said Wednesday.

"I had every reason to believe in '93 that the full historical record, anything important to the historical understanding, was there and available. I had no notion that anything important had been destroyed."

A historian who was a member of the CIA staff in 1992 and 1993 said in an interview that the records were obliterated by "a culture of destruction" at the agency.

The historian, Nick Cullather, said he believed that records on other major Cold War covert operations had been burned, including those on secret mis-

See CIA, Page 7

Newsstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Egypt	£E 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Italy	2,800 Lire	Spain	225 PTAS
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	Tunisia	1,250 Din
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

David Guttenfelder/The Associated Press

KABILA SWORN IN — Laurent Kabila taking the presidential oath Thursday in a soccer stadium in Kinshasa before 50,000 people. Page 7.

Nigeria Troops Take Up Positions in Sierra Leone

Lagos Hoping to Restore Elected President

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Setting the stage for a possible test of military strength, hundreds of heavily armed Nigerian troops began taking up strategic positions Thursday around the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown, to back demands that leaders of a military coup in that country restore power to the elected president.

Officially, the Nigerian troops, who have been arriving by ship and airplane from neighboring Liberia, where they serve in a regional peacekeeping force, are being deployed to help restore law and order. On Sunday, a junior officers' coup overthrew Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who was elected president in March 1996.

West African diplomats said, however, that the Nigerian forces were acting on a request by Mr. Kabbah, who has taken temporary refuge in Guinea, to reinstate his government. Mr. Kabbah's election ended four years of rule by junior officers and was widely hailed as a breakthrough for democracy in the region.

"The idea is to give these people a chance to do the right thing all by themselves," said one West African diplomat who is closely monitoring the Nigerian troop deployment. "But the point that is hopefully getting through is that in the end, the coup leaders will be given no choice but to back down."

Mr. Kabbah's overthrow, which began with a predawn raid on a Freetown prison that liberated scores of imprisoned army officers and common criminals, was the third military coup in Sierra Leone in five years. After 24 hours of severe looting by soldiers, and as many as 100 deaths, the organizers of the coup announced that Major Johnny Paul Koromah had been appointed the new head of state.

In his first official act, Major Koromah suspended the constitution and banned political parties. Before the coup, Major Koromah had been in prison since September on a treason conviction for one of several previous coup attempts against Mr. Kabbah.

On Wednesday, in one of his first public statements, the new head of state tried to ease mounting fears within his own military of an imminent Nigerian military action against his government, which he has called the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council. He said that "our Nigerian brothers will not interfere in our internal matters."

Setting the stage for a period of strict

See FREETOWN, Page 7

Don't Look Now, but It's Raining Cosmic Snowballs

Objects as Huge as Houses Pour Water Into Atmosphere

By Kathy Sawyer
Washington Post Service

BALTIMORE — Earth is bathed by a steady "cosmic rain" from previously undetected objects from outer space that pour huge quantities of water into the atmosphere, according to startling new evidence.

The objects, 20-to-40-ton snowballs the size of two-bedroom houses, streak into the atmosphere by the thousands each day, disintegrate harmlessly 600 to 15,000 miles up and deposit large clouds of water vapor that eventually fall on Earth's surface as rain, according to Louis Frank of the University of Iowa. He led the research team that has captured images of these objects for the first time.

The ramifications of the discovery are potentially enormous, Mr. Frank and other scientists said as the evidence was presented Wednesday. If Mr. Frank's interpretation of the evidence is confirmed, it could force scientists to revise beliefs about how Earth and the solar system evolved, how the building blocks of life first arose, how the oceans formed and whether fluxes in the cosmic rain could have caused ice ages and mass extinctions.

Scientists might also be compelled to study the impact of this alien precipitation on Earth's climate, the "greenhouse" effect and the "hole" in the ozone layer over Antarctica.

Mr. Frank's evidence suggests the small ice comets move in a stream around the sun at more than 25 miles per second, slightly outpacing Earth and most likely also showering other bodies as far out as Jupiter, he said.

They could come from a vast disc of comets that astronomers have theorized is circling beyond the planets, Mr. Frank said, but their source is basically a huge question mark.

The objects must be composed of something other than icy water, or they would never survive the sun's heat as they hurtle toward the inner solar system. Mr. Frank has suggested they travel through space cloaked in a protective mantle of carbon that functions like a plastic food wrap, preventing them from visibly losing their substance like ordinary comets with their glowing tails.

The discovery suggests that the volume of water on Earth is increasing. It also has implications for the

See COSMIC, Page 7

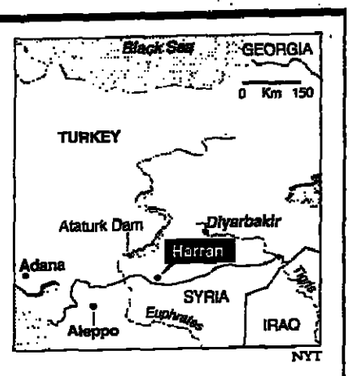
AT&T

From Arid to Fruitful /**A Colossal Turkish Project**

Rebirth of the Fertile Crescent

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

Olcay Unver, standing on a hill overlooking the Harran Plain, leads the Southeast Anatolia Project, whose goal is to transform a barren tract of land the size of Austria into a prosperous region.



NYT

Staton Winter/The New York Times

HARRAN, Turkey — From the ruins of the ancient citadel that towers above this remote and dusty town, the plains of Mesopotamia stretch in every direction. Many great visionaries have reigned here, but perhaps none have had grander dreams than a 40-year-old engineer who stood atop the windswept bluff on a recent afternoon and surveyed his domain.

The engineer, Olcay Unver, heads the Southeast Anatolia Project, one of the most ambitious development projects ever attempted. His goals are nothing less than to transform an arid tract of land the size of Austria into a fertile and prosperous garden, to break down a feudal social structure in which most of its 6 million residents live in poverty, and to provide so much work and opportunity that people will flow into this region from other parts of Turkey rather than fleeing in despair.

In his seventh year of running the project, Mr. Unver is beginning to succeed. Applying in part the lessons he learned while studying for his doctorate in engineering at the University of Texas and his experience as a water engineer for the Lower Colorado River Authority, he is slowly turning this backward and violent region into a model of rising expectations.

The scale of the $32 billion project, which envisions the construction of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric plants on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, is vast enough to fulfill any engineer's fantasies.

Three of the dams and adjacent power plants are completed, including the giant Ataturk Dam, which is the centerpiece of the project. Six more complexes are under construction, work on two others is about to begin, and the rest are being designed.

Under Mr. Unver's direction, the project has broadened far beyond its original scope. It now includes forestry, fish farming, urban planning programs, rural health clinics, literacy classes, handicraft courses, schools for farmers, and centers for the promotion of women's rights.

Dozens of such programs and centers are already functioning and more are opening every month. "A lot of people have the misconception that this is an irrigation project or an energy project," Mr. Unver said as he looked out over the blossoming Harran Plain. "Actually, it's an integrated socio-economic development project which aims to enhance the standard of living in this area. Maximum yield is not the goal. A good yield in an equitable social context is a better goal."

The project has roots as far back as the 1930s, when President Kemal Ataturk, the father of modern Turkey, proposed the construction of dams to harness the power of the Tigris and Euphrates. The region through which the rivers flow, one of the cradles of early civilization, was once known as the fertile crescent, but it dried up over the centuries and became a miserable backwater.

In 1989, the Turkish government decided to consolidate the project within a single agency. Mr. Unver, then a young government planner, became the agency's on-site director, and in 1991 he took over leadership of the program. He has survived through seven governments under five prime ministers.

Much of the region has been torn by civil and military conflict for more than a decade. Kurdish separatists here are fighting the Turkish army, and four of the nine provinces in the project area are under emergency rule.

When the war was at its peak in the late 1980s and early '90s, guerrillas singled out the project, attacking several machine shops and killing at least one group of engineers. But the guerrillas are not known to have attacked any of the project's construction sites in the last two years.

SCORES of new factories are under construction, and scores more are already open. Most are producing textiles from the cotton that can now be grown in irrigated local soil, or processing the fruits and vegetables that are sprouting from green fields. All are fueled by the cheap electric power that is becoming available. A surprising number of the factories are owned by local entrepreneurs who had until now thought it wiser to invest their money in other parts of the country.

"Everywhere in the region, we see a great deal of private investment, mostly by local people," said Elizabeth Shelton, the American consul in nearby Adana. "I'm also struck by the amount of infrastructure investment the government is putting in. There's tremendous road construction under way. Airports are being built. We're telling American businessmen that now is the time to come into the southeast."

Guerrillas are not the project's only problem, though. The two countries that lie downstream in the Tigris-Euphrates basin, Syria and Iraq, have complained bitterly about Turkey's plan to divert large amounts of the rivers' water.

Because of this conflict, major lenders like the World Bank have refused to contribute to construction of the dams or irrigation projects. Their reluctance has slowed the project and forced the Turkish government to come up with almost all the money itself, fueling the country's 80 percent inflation rate.

The project is less than half finished, and its effects are only beginning to be felt by the local population. No one, not even Mr. Unver, will venture to guess when it might be completed. For years to come, people in this region will probably remain Turkey's poorest.

"Development levels here are comparable to those in Africa," said Mehmet Sirin Yigit, who heads the chamber of commerce in Diyarbakir, the region's largest city. "That has to change."

He added that what the project signifies, "we hope, is that the change has begun."

Ukraine and NATO Set Security Charter

The Associated Press

SINTRA, Portugal — NATO foreign ministers agreed Thursday to a sweeping new security charter with Ukraine, then began talks to choose which nations would be offered membership when the alliance expands into Eastern Europe.

The final decision on which countries are to be admitted will be made at a NATO summit meeting in Madrid on July 8 and 9.

Already, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are seen as almost certain to join.

The U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, told her fellow ministers that the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would "extend eastward the peace and prosperity that Western Europe has enjoyed for the last 50 years."

The meeting here at a baroque monastery outside this historic hill town follows the signing of a landmark security agreement between Russia and NATO in Paris on Tuesday that opens that way for the alliance's expansion.

The talks here were expected to focus on whether to widen the net to include Romania and Slovenia in the first wave of NATO enlargement, scheduled for completion by early 1999.

France and Italy are backing the Romanian and Slovene bids, arguing that bringing them into Western institutions would bolster stability in the volatile Balkan region and reinforce NATO's southern flank.

Others among the 16 NATO allies are wary of spreading NATO's security umbrella too wide.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain said he was willing to discuss extending membership to Slovenia and Romania but stressed that they had to make a positive contribution to the alliance.

"Entry into NATO is not a free gift," Mr. Cook said. "We have to look at the security implications." He warned that any expansion of the alliance must strengthen it, not weaken it.

The charter with Ukraine should allay Kiev's fears of being left in a dangerous gray area between the alliance and Russia. It is designed to tighten political and military links and is broadly similar to the NATO-Russia accord.

Under the charter, Ukraine can consult with NATO on perceived security threats, open up a permanent military liaison mission at NATO headquarters and hold regular political talks.

"This is a very important day for Ukraine," Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko said after initialing the document.

The agreement with Ukraine is due to be formally signed by NATO leaders and President Leonid Kuchma at the Madrid summit meeting. Neither Russia or Ukraine are candidates for early NATO membership.

Calm on the Black Sea

Moscow and Kiev Resolve Fleet Dispute

By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — After years of frustrating diplomacy, Russia and Ukraine have ended their tug-of-war over the Black Sea Fleet.

Under the accord, Russia will be able to keep its portion of the former Soviet fleet for 20 years at the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

The new agreement also sets the stage for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine later this week, his first as Russia's president. The accord was concluded Wednesday night in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia and his Ukrainian counterpart, Pavlo Lazerenko.

With NATO preparing to expand, Russia has redoubled its efforts to strengthen its relations with former Soviet republics like Ukraine.

The strategic aim in the case of Ukraine is to prevent the nation from drifting closer to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The political aim is to make NATO expansion less objectionable to many Russians by creating the impression that Moscow is also increasing its influence with key neighbors. Mr. Yeltsin's visit comes after six previous trips were postponed.

Russia and Ukraine also have important economic relations, as well as problems. Ukraine's debt to Russia is estimated to be at least $3.5 billion, much of it owed to RAO Gazprom, the Russian natural gas monopoly.

Russia has also angered Ukrainians by imposing customs duties.

Dmytro Markov, spokesman for Ukraine's president, said Russia and Ukraine had made important progress on economic issues. He said they had "decided to lift all barriers that stand in the way of bilateral trade."

Anders Aslund, a specialist at the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace, said: "The political declaration of good relations is significant. The economic relations between Russia and Ukraine are important, and there have been serious disturbances in them."

Sevastopol, which was founded in 1783 as a military fortress, has a large Russian population. Long a part of the Russian empire, Sevastopol's defense during the Crimean War in the 1850s is still celebrated here as an example of Russian valor.

Nikita Khrushchev gave the Crimea to Ukraine as a token of friendship in 1954 when Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union. The port's status as part of Ukraine rankles many Russians, who believe it should be returned.

The Russian-Ukrainian negotiations over the Black Sea Fleet and the use of the Sevastopol port have been tortuous, and there have been several premature claims about diplomatic breakthroughs.

The tussle over the aging fleet has been more of a political battle than a dispute over security.

The agreement will give Russia a presence in the Black Sea at a time when Moscow has become concerned about Turkey's influence and is promoting oil pipelines from Central Asia to a new Black Sea terminal.

But the vessels are aging; the newest are almost 20 years old.

Mr. Chernomyrdin signed several agreements in Kiev on Wednesday night on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the location where it is to be stationed, and economic compensation for use of the Ukrainian ports, but neither Mr. Chernomyrdin nor his Ukrainian counterpart would disclose what compensation Ukraine received for access to Sevastopol.

Cloning of Humans? Unethical, EU Panel Decides

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The cloning of human beings is "ethically unacceptable" and should be prohibited by law, but genetic research on human embryos as well as research into animal cloning should be permitted under strict conditions, a European ethics panel said Thursday.

Human cloning is objectionable on the grounds of eugenics, since it could open the door to attempts to breed a superior race, the European Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology said. The group also said that the possible risk of a shortened life span and greater susceptibility to cancer or infertility made human cloning unacceptable, regardless of whether it became feasible.

"In light of these considerations, any attempt to produce a genetically identical human individual by nuclear substitution from a human adult or child cell should be prohibited," the group said in a report to the European Commission, the executive agency of the 15-nation European Union.

The report was the first official recommendation on cloning since a Scottish scientist announced in March that he had produced a sheep named Dolly, the first time a mammal had been cloned from an adult cell.

The group's recommendations attracted immediate interest around the world because many governments, concerned about science's ability to manipulate the reproductive process, have demanded similar studies.

The European conclusions sound "very similar" to what the National Bioethics Advisory Commission is likely to recommend when it issues its report to President Bill Clinton next month, said Henrietta Hyatt-Knorr, the commission's deputy executive director. The U.S. commission is scheduled to adopt its final report June 7.

The European panel, which includes scientific, medical and legal experts from nine EU countries, addressed the distinctions between animal and human cloning as well as between cloning and genetic research on human embryos.

On embryos, for example, the group said research involving the transfer of genetic material could have important therapeutic implications, such as learning how to regenerate damaged body tissue. But genetically manipulated embryos should not be implanted into a woman's uterus, it said.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

TRAVEL UPDATE

Cathay Pacific Returns to Normal

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific Airways said Thursday its operations were now nearly normal, despite the fact that its fleet of Airbus A330-300 jets remained grounded.

The airline suspended 12 flights Thursday, but the number of suspensions will gradually decrease as chartered planes are arranged, said Kwan Chuk-fai, spokesman for Cathay Pacific.

The groundings followed the discovery of a flaw in an engine component in the Rolls-Royce Trent 700 engine.

• **Matsapha International Airport in Mbabane, Swaziland,** is to be upgraded at a cost of 20 million rand ($4.5 million) over the next three years, the Transport and Communications Ministry announced. New runways will be able to accommodate jetliners the size of 747s. *(AFP)*

• **Britain will consider banning the use of mobile phones** in moving cars, following recent fatal road accidents in which the phones were believed to play a part. *(AP)*

• **Airline traffic was affected early Thursday at Berlin's** three airports because of a three-hour strike by employees demanding more job security and guarantees, a spokesman for the airports said. *(AFP)*

• **Without money, passport or plane ticket, a 12-year-old** Miami boy flew first class to Jamaica recently. Dressed in a T-shirt, the boy took a train and a bus to the airport, walking away from a facility for "at-risk" children. He eventually boarded an American Airlines to Montego Bay, Jamaica. He has been flown back to Miami. *(AFP)*

WEATHER

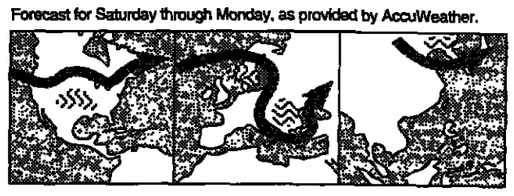
Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Algarve	22/71	16/61 pc	21/70	13/55 pc
Amsterdam	19/66	9/48 s	19/66	8/46 s
Ankara	22/71	3/37 s	19/66	1/34 c
Athens	21/70	13/55 s	22/71	12/53 s
Barcelona	23/73	14/57 pc	21/70	14/57 c
Belgrade	17/62	6/43 r	14/57	7/44 sh
Berlin	18/61	3/37 s	18/61	5/41 s
Brussels	21/70	9/48 s	20/68	8/46 s
Budapest	15/59	7/44 r	15/59	8/46 c
Copenhagen	13/55	4/39 s	18/61	7/44 s
Costa Del Sol	27/80	18/64 pc	23/73	13/55 pc
Dublin	22/71	14/57 s	22/71	13/55 s
Edinburgh	22/71	12/53 s	21/70	11/52 pc
Florence	25/79	12/53 s	23/73	9/48 s
Frankfurt	19/66	7/44 s	18/61	4/39 s
Geneva	25/79	8/46 s	25/77	11/52 s
Helsinki	11/52	4/39 c	15/59	4/39 pc
Istanbul	18/64	11/52 pc	15/59	8/46 r
Kiev	18/64	8/46 pc	14/57	10/50 r
Las Palmas	22/71	18/64 pc	23/73	17/62 s
Lisbon	23/73	15/59 c	20/68	13/55 c
London	23/73	13/55 s	22/71	10/50 s
Madrid	28/82	14/57 c	23/73	11/52 r
Mallorca	21/70	15/59 pc	20/68	18/61 c
Milan	28/82	11/52 s	28/79	12/53 s
Moscow	17/62	8/46 pc	16/61	9/48 sh
Munich	17/62	4/39 pc	16/61	3/37 s
Nice	25/77	16/61 s	21/70	14/57 pc
Oslo	17/62	10/50 pc	19/66	11/52 c
Paris	24/75	11/52 s	22/71	9/48 s
Prague	16/61	1/34 pc	14/57	2/35 s
Reykjavik	8/46	3/46 sh	13/55	8/46 r
Riga	11/52	6/43 sh	16/61	6/43 pc
Rome	22/71	11/52 s	21/70	10/50 pc
St. Petersburg	14/57	7/44 sh	16/61	7/44 pc
Stockholm	14/57	7/44 s	17/62	10/50 pc
Strasbourg	21/70	8/46 s	20/68	7/44 s
Tallinn	12/53	6/43 c	18/61	5/41 pc
Tbilisi	28/84	18/64 pc	28/84	18/61 pc
Venice	24/75	10/50 s	20/68	8/46 s
Vienna	16/61	2/35 pc	14/57	5/41 pc
Warsaw	9/48	7/44 r	15/59	6/43 c
Zurich	21/70	7/44 s	21/70	8/46 s

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	37/98	23/73 s	37/98	22/71 s
Beirut	24/75	18/61 s	22/71	14/57 s
Cairo	35/95	18/61 s	35/95	17/62 s
Damascus	30/86	9/48 s	28/84	11/52 s
Jerusalem	27/80	11/52 s	26/79	11/52 s
Luxor	43/109	18/64 s	43/109	18/64 s
Riyadh	42/107	27/80 s	41/106	26/79 s

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America
A low pressure area is expected to develop over the mid-Mississippi Valley Saturday, then move into the Southeast with unsettled weather Sunday. Rain from this system may reach the mid-Atlantic states Monday. Warm weather will move from the Rockies into the Plains this weekend.

Europe
Sunny and dry weather will prevail across the northern tier of Europe, from London to Berlin, through the weekend. Southern Scandinavia will be warm and dry, while southeast Europe remains cool and unsettled through Monday. Turning a bit unsettled in Spain and Italy.

Asia
Cool and damp weather will continue across Manchuria, while Seoul and Beijing enjoy a moderating trend through Monday. Showers will dampen Seoul this weekend. Tokyo will have showers this weekend, then turning drier Monday. Hot and humid in Singapore with a stray thundershower each day.

North America

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Anchorage	18/61	7/44 sh	17/62	8/46 pc
Atlanta	26/79	18/64 t	26/79	17/62 pc
Boston	30/68	12/53 s	20/68	12/53 sh
Chicago	22/71	12/53 pc	23/73	12/53 pc
Dallas	29/84	19/66 t	29/84	17/62 pc
Denver	24/75	11/52 pc	26/79	11/52 pc
Detroit	22/71	12/53 pc	22/71	12/53 pc
Honolulu	28/82	23/73 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
Houston	31/88	22/71 pc	30/86	19/66 t
Las Angeles	21/88	17/62 s	28/84	15/59 pc
Miami	31/88	23/73 pc	32/89	24/75 t
Minneapolis	22/71	10/50 pc	24/75	14/57 s
Montreal	17/62	13/55 sh	21/70	13/55 pc
Nassau	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
New York	20/68	16/61 sh	22/71	16/61 c
Orlando	30/86	21/70 pc	32/89	21/70 pc
Phoenix	42/107	26/79 s	41/106	24/75 s
San Fran	26/79	13/55 s	21/70	12/53 pc
Seattle	21/70	13/55 pc	20/68	9/48 r
Toronto	17/62	10/50 r	20/68	9/48 c
Vancouver	21/70	14/57 c	21/70	7/44 r
Washington	22/71	16/61 sh	24/75	17/62 pc

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low W C/F
Almaty	31/88	16/61 pc	31/88	16/61 pc
Bali	32/89	21/70 s	33/91	21/70 s
Bangkok	32/89	25/79 r	29/84	25/79 t
Beijing	27/80	14/57 pc	27/80	13/55 pc
Bombay	32/89	23/73 s	31/88	24/75 s
Calcutta	34/93	24/75 pc	34/93	26/79 pc
Chiang Mai	32/89	24/75 r	31/88	23/73 t
Colombo	29/84	24/75 sh	29/84	23/73 pc
Hanoi	31/88	25/79 sh	29/84	25/79 c
Ho Chi Minh	32/89	24/75 r	33/91	24/75 c
Hong Kong	28/82	24/75 sh	28/82	24/75 c
Islamabad	40/104	21/70 s	37/98	22/71 pc
Jakarta	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Karachi	37/98	28/79 s	34/93	23/77 s
K. Lumpur	32/89	22/71 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
K. Kinabalu	32/89	25/77 pc	32/89	25/77 pc
Manila	32/89	24/75 r	32/89	24/75 t
New Delhi	42/107	28/82 s	41/106	27/80 pc
Phnom Penh	31/88	23/73 r	32/89	24/75 sh
Phuket	32/89	25/79 s	29/84	25/79 t
Rangoon	32/89	26/79 r	29/84	25/77 t
Seoul	19/66	11/52 t	20/68	13/55 sh
Shanghai	26/82	19/66 s	28/82	21/70 s
Singapore	32/89	25/79 pc	33/91	25/79 pc
Taipei	28/82	22/71 pc	29/84	22/71 s
Tokyo	26/79	18/64 r	22/71	16/61 r
Vientiane	29/84	26/79 sh	29/84	24/75 c

Africa

Algiers	28/82	18/64 c	32/89	18/64 pc
Cape Town	21/70	9/48 s	21/70	8/46 s
Casablanca	23/73	14/57 pc	20/68	14/57 pc
Harare	30/86	12/53 s	31/88	12/53 s
Lagos	30/86	23/73 pc	29/84	23/73 pc
Nairobi	25/77	12/53 c	25/77	12/53 pc
Tunis	28/82	16/61 pc	26/79	17/62 pc

Latin America

Buenos Aires	14/57	9/48 c	17/62	7/44 c
Caracas	30/86	24/75 pc	31/88	25/77 pc
Lima	23/73	17/62 pc	23/73	18/64 s
Mexico City	24/75	11/52 c	24/75	12/53 pc
Rio de Janeiro	21/70	15/59 pc	19/66	14/57 sh
Santiago	13/55	0/32 sh	14/57	3/37 pc

Oceania

Auckland	14/57	13/55 r	16/61	11/52 r
Sydney	16/61	8/41 s	13/55	10/50 sh

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, I-ice, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997

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THE AMERICAS

Prosecution Closes Its Case By Citing McVeigh's Words

Decision Going to Jury After Modest Defense

The Associated Press

DENVER — Timothy McVeigh was a cowardly "domestic terrorist" who set the fuse for the Oklahoma City bombing and could see the toys and cribs in the federal building's day-care center on his way to his getaway car, a prosecutor said Thursday in closing arguments.

"Only a wall of windows separated the unsuspecting children, women and men in that building" from the truck bomb that exploded on April 19, 1995, killing 168 people, said Larry Mackey, the prosecutor, who called the blast a "crime of ghastly proportions."

"America stood in shock," he said. "Who could do such a thing?"

"It has fallen to you, members of the jury, to answer this question," he said. "The answer is clear: Tim McVeigh did it."

Mr. Mackey said the defense attorney, Stephen Jones, failed to keep the "bold promise" he made to jurors at the beginning of the trial to prove Mr. McVeigh not guilty in the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

The prosecutor said a trail of Mr. McVeigh's own writings and anti-government literature showed he was motivated by rage over the 1993 government siege at Waco, Texas. And he said Mr. McVeigh was fixated on "The Turner Diaries," a racist novel that describes how revolutionaries could incite a revolution by blowing up a federal building.

Using Mr. McVeigh's own words against him, the prosecutor said that his anti-government hatred went "from the intellectual to animal" in the months before the bombing and that he tried to impose his beliefs on America "through violence and terror."

Mr. Mackey cited the testimony of Helena Garrett, who lost her young son, Tevin, in the bombing. "He died. This bomber didn't care. The only thing he cared about was bringing down the Murrah building on top of its occupants."

Bombing survivors wept as Mr. Mackey described the details of the bombing and the victims, and showed pictures of the bombed-out building and the streets with billowing smoke.

Mr. McVeigh, wearing a plaid shirt and green pants, sat with his hands clasped against his face.

Mr. Mackey later showed jurors a photo of Mr. McVeigh, and compared it with a sketch of John Doe 1, based on witnesses who identified Mr. McVeigh as the man who rented the bomb-carrying Ryder truck. Mr. Mackey said the sketch and photo of Mr. McVeigh were identical, but he urged jurors to look for themselves.

"You decide," Mr. Mackey told them. "You decide."

Mr. Mackey acknowledged that no case answers every question, and said there were some inconsistencies. For instance, investigators searched storage lockers and found no evidence of the explosive fertilizer they contend was stored there. But he said jurors should be able to see through that problem.

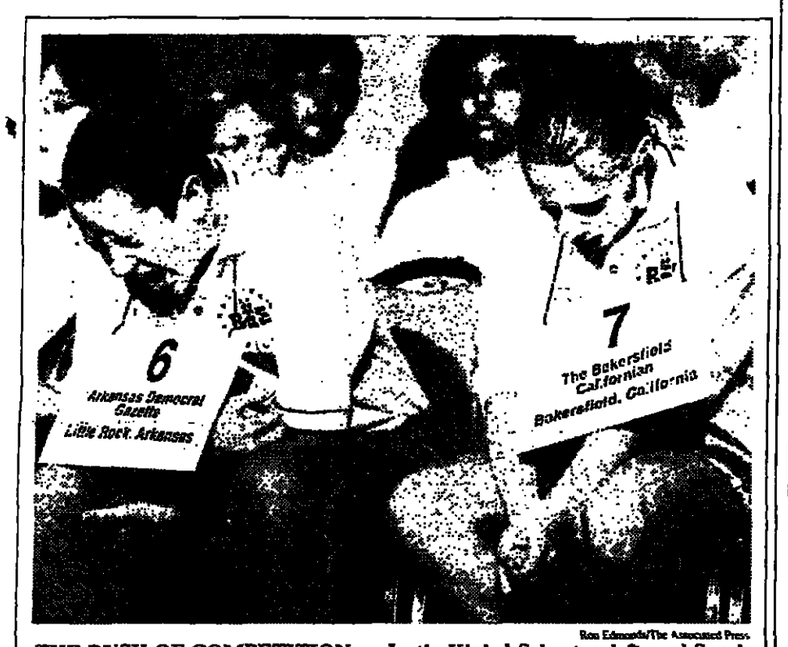
"That evidence had gone up in smoke in Oklahoma City," Mr. Mackey said.

Mr. McVeigh, a 29-year-old decorated Gulf War veteran, could get the death penalty if convicted in the blast. His co-defendant, Terry Nichols, is to be tried later.

The closing arguments for the defense were expected to take three hours, and the seven-man, five-woman jury could get the case before the end of the day Thursday and would deliberate through the weekend if necessary.

The closing arguments came a day after Mr. McVeigh's attorneys rested their case after 25 witnesses in just 3½ days.

The modest defense, after a lean prosecution case that saw 137 witnesses in 18 days, came after U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch refused to allow theories of a larger conspiracy involving foreign and domestic terrorists.



Ron Edmonds/The Associated Press

THE RUSH OF COMPETITION — Justin Kinkel-Schuster, left, and Sarah McGill yawning in unison during the opening round of the 70th annual National Spelling Bee in Washington, where 245 contestants are participating.

Away From Politics

• A 7-year-old girl was raped and killed in a Nevada casino rest room while her father gambled. Jeremy Strohmeyer, 18, was arrested in connection with Sherrice Iverson's death at the Primadonna Resort in Primm, near Las Vegas. *(AP)*

• The Florida Supreme Court postponed the execution of an inmate until it hears arguments in September on the condition of the state's 74-year-old electric chair. It is the second postponement following the execution of Pedro Medina in March, when a 12-inch flame shot out from Mr. Medina's head, burning his flesh. *(Reuters)*

• The crash of an A-10 attack plane in the Arizona desert has killed one of just 14 women flying combat jets for the Air Force. The family of Captain Amy Lynn Svoboda said the air force confirmed that she was killed. *(Reuters)*

• Fears that a large number of people were missing, enough to nearly double the death toll in the twister that hit a neighborhood in Jarrell, Texas, this week, are groundless, authorities said after concluding that 28 people died. *(AP)*

POLITICAL NOTES

From Ex-Clinton Aide, Just 'My Perceptions'

WASHINGTON — In his well-received memoir about his term as secretary of labor, Robert Reich recalls being grilled by the dreaded Republicans at a 1995 congressional hearing.

"Where did you learn economics, Mr. Secretary?" demands Representative Jim Saxton, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, who later jumps up and down in his chair and cries: "Evidence! Evidence!"

Heck of a scene. Unfortunately, it never happened. Neither did several other episodes in Mr. Reich's "Locked in the Cabinet," Jonathan Rauch writes in the on-line magazine Slate.

Mr. Rauch went to the videotape and checked the transcript of the Saxton hearing. "Reich appears to have fabricated much of this episode for dramatic effect," Mr. Rauch writes.

"Saxton was in fact decorous and polite," he says, adding, "Reich has replaced a dull, earnestly wonkish hearing with a Hollywood script in which a mean Republican hammers a decent Democrat."

The former secretary said: "It's a memoir. It's not investigative journalism. I'm not a journalist. As I said on the first page, these are my perceptions. This is the way I experienced it." *(WP)*

Unpredictable Judge In Paula Jones Case

WASHINGTON — The judge presiding over the Paula Jones lawsuit has known Bill Clinton for decades, but there is little in that long history to predict how she will handle the potentially explosive sexual harassment case against the president if it comes to trial.

Judge Susan Webber Wright of U.S. District Court in Little Rock has already handled several high-profile legal issues arising from the investigation by the independent counsel Kenneth Starr into the Clintons' failed Whitewater real-estate investment — sometimes coming down on the side of the president and his wife, but just as often ruling against them.

Judge Wright quashed a document subpoena Mr. Starr issued to the White House in one matter, for example, but agreed to his request that Susan McDougal, the Clintons' partner in the real estate venture, be jailed for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the matter.

Judge Wright was a student in an admiralty law course that Mr. Clinton taught at the University of Arkansas in the early 1970s, but she challenged him over her grade in the course. She got involved in Mr. Clinton's first political race in 1974, but it was to work for his opponent, Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt, a Republican.

Judge Wright, 48, is a conservative Republican. She was appointed to the federal bench in 1990 by President George Bush. *(WP)*

Quote/Unquote

Joan Chase, president of the Woman's National Democratic Club, which was founded in 1922, two years after women got the vote, on a proposal to change the name to the Washington National Democratic Club: "Part of the reason for the change is that we want more male members. We don't have a problem with having men, but some of our members don't want the change because we do represent a history of what women were trying to become, and we still are trying to carry that on." *(WP)*

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Location Stendal
Historic district town in the Altmark. Former WGF barracks "Puschkin Park", 90.64 ha, partly built-up, use undecided. Near B 188 and B 189. Northern Sachsen-Anhalt.

Location Gardelegen
Picturesque township in the Altmark. Former airfield, 305.28 ha, 8 buildings, housing construction planned on approx. 10 ha. Directly on B 188. Northern Sachsen-Anhalt.

DOUBLE PACK A2 692.25 ha

Location Halberstadt
Old cathedral town (district town) near Harz Mountains. Former WGF barracks Friedrich-List-Str. 435.52 ha, partly built-up, use can be agreed. Convenient traffic links.

Location Lossa
Municipality in spa and health resort region. Former WGF garrison, 256.73 ha, partly built-up, no general development plans. Near B 176. Southern Sachsen-Anhalt.

TRIPLE PACK A3 276.89 ha

Location Wittenberg
Luther town and historic district town. Former ARADO barracks, 12.59 ha, partly built-up, housing construction planned. Directly on B 187. Eastern Sachsen-Anhalt.

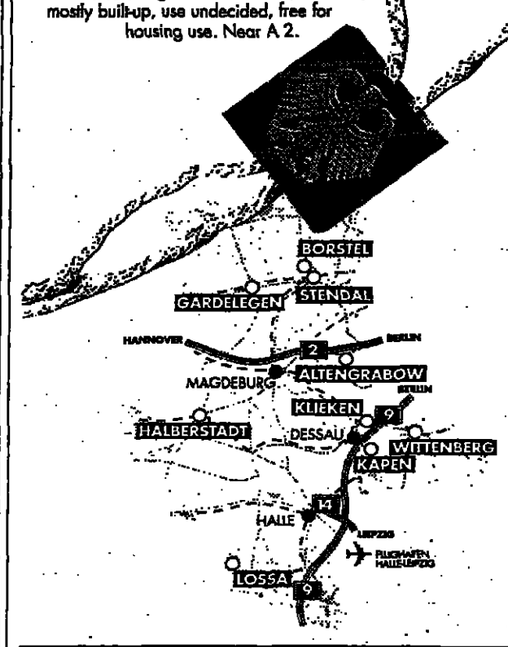
Location Kapen
Between Oranienbaum and Dessau, the Bauhaus town. Former WGF barracks, 170.83 ha, partly built-up, own rail siding, use undecided. Directly on B 185. Eastern Sachsen-Anhalt.

Location Klieken
Near Rosslau in district of Anhalt-Zerbst. Former WGF garrison, 93.47 ha, partly built-up, use undecided, own access to B 187. Eastern Sachsen-Anhalt.

DOUBLE PACK A4 321.40 ha

Location Borstel
Near Stendal in the Altmark. Former WGF airfield, 312.00 ha, partly built-up, plans for commercial air use, otherwise undecided. On B 188/189. Northern Sachsen-Anhalt.

Location Altengrabow
In the Jerichower Land district in eastern Sachsen-Anhalt. Former WGF property "Rotes und gelbes Städtchen", 9.40 ha, mostly built-up, use undecided, free for housing use. Near A 2.



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Location Ludwigslust
Baroque district town in the south-east of the Land. Former WGF garrison "Techentin", 70.12 ha, partly built-up, planning includes commercial and industrial use. Near A 24.

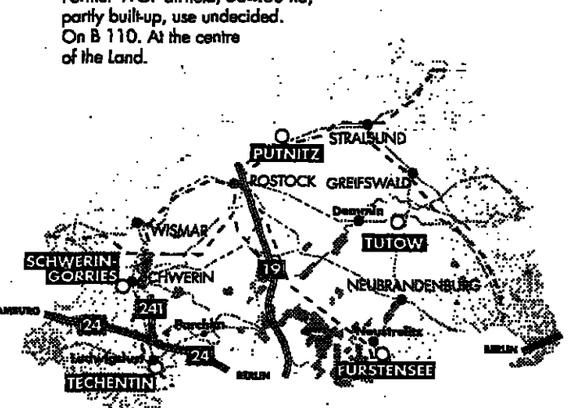
Location Schwerin
Historic Land capital and lakeland town. Former WGF garrison "Schwerin-Görries", 64.48 ha, partly built-up, use undecided. On A 24/241. Western Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Location Pütnitz
Municipality in the Baltic sea resort region. Former airfield, 368.60 ha, partly built-up, use undecided. On B 105.

DOUBLE PACK B2 595.10 ha

Location Neustrelitz
At the heart of the Mecklenburg Lakeland. Former WGF fuel depot "Fürstensee", 60.50 ha, partly built-up, general development plan in hand. On B 96/198.

Location Tutow
Near the historic district town of Demmin. Former WGF airfield, 534.60 ha, partly built-up, use undecided. On B 110. At the centre of the Land.



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Pride a Major Obstacle Of Aid to North Korea

Pyongyang Suspicious of South's Help

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — With a famine spreading in North Korea, one of the central obstacles to getting attention and assistance has been North Korean pride, which is as enormous as the country's need.

Huge numbers of North Korea's 23 million people may be starving, but the leadership has been reluctant to accept direct aid from South Korea or to allow journalists to visit hard-hit areas and publicize the suffering.

The government of Kim Jong Il, the longtime "Dear Leader," now elevated to "Great Leader," has feared that direct aid and wrenching news coverage of hungry children would be humiliating and would allow South Korea to score propaganda points.

But this week, in a sign that greater openness may be in the offing, the two Koreas reached a major agreement that will allow the South to send food aid directly to North Korea and to mark the sacks so it is clear where the aid is coming from. The agreement also allows aid organizations to send food by new routes and to stipulate what region in North Korea will get the food.

"I think this is a major breakthrough," said Lee Yoon Gu, co-chairman of a South Korean coalition of organizations trying to send food to the North. "Whether or not it will work out, we'll have to see. But I'm optimistic."

Some others are more skeptical, and everyone agrees that a good deal will depend on how the accord — reached on Monday in Beijing — is put into effect. Even with its more flexible attitude in those talks, North Korea still rejected the idea of receiving any aid directly from the South at the border crossing at Panmunjon.

The North was apparently concerned in part that it would be demoralizing for its hungry soldiers to see truckloads of food rolling in from enemy territory. So the 50,000 tons of corn, noodles and other food covered by the agreement will arrive on three rail lines from China and at two seaports — still an improvement from the single rail crossing and sole port now designated by the North to receive such aid.

The new arrangement will apparently allow organizations in the South that contribute 1,000 tons of food to designate the town in North Korea that will get the aid. But there will be no on-site monitoring, and it will still be impossible for South Koreans to send food directly to particular people or families.

"The North Koreans are very suspicious of anything from the South," said Bernard Krisher, an American in Tokyo who recently delivered aid to North Korea. "As desperate as they may be, there is a lot of pride there. They don't want to look like beggars, and they are suspicious of South Korean motives."

The United States is sending $25 million worth of food to North Korea, and the South Korean government has also sent a modest amount and allowed aid from the private sector, such as the 50,000 tons agreed to this week. But the South Korean authorities insist that they can send large-scale assistance only after the North agrees to a proposal for four-party peace talks involving the two Koreas, China and the United States.

"The urgent problem is peace on the Korean Peninsula," said Moon Moo Hong, the assistant minister of unification in South Korea. Mr. Moon said that the fundamental obstacle is North Korea's truculent attitude, and he added that while North Korea needs $300 million to buy food and avert starvation, it is spending billions of dollars on its military forces each year.

Another South Korean official said that this week's agreement was intended to encourage the North to be more flexible and join the four-party talks, in an attempt to end the state of war that technically still exists on the Korean Peninsula.

"We've done our part, and now we expect them to be more positive on the four-party talks," the official said.

■ Tokyo Hints at Reversal on Aid

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan hinted Thursday that Japan might reverse its policy on food aid to North Korea and agree to provide help if South Korea formally asks it to do so, Reuters reported, quoting the Kyodo news agency.

Japan has been refusing to give food aid to famine-stricken North Korea because it says the Pyongyang government was behind a string of kidnappings of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and is also involved in drug smuggling.

"If the South Korean government asks us for assistance to compatriots in North Korea, there is room for the Japanese side to change its stance," Kyodo quoted Mr. Hashimoto as telling a group of visiting South Korean newspaper editors.

Tokyo has also demanded that Pyongyang allow Japanese wives of Koreans in North Korea to visit their homeland.

North Korea has denied involvement in the kidnappings and has not formally commented on the recent drug smuggling case.

U.S. Opposes Use of Force In Asia Waters

The Associated Press

MANILA — The United States strongly opposes the use of force in territorial disputes in the South China Sea and is ready to help solve conflicts peacefully, the U.S. ambassador said Thursday.

Ambassador Thomas Hubbard also said the United States was not interested in new military bases in the Philippines in exchange for pledging to protect Manila in the contested areas, as proposed by a Filipino senator.

Recent incidents between the Philippines and China over territorial disputes in the Spratly Islands and at Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea have increased tensions in an area of some of the world's most important sea lanes.

Francisco Tatad, the Senate majority leader, recently urged the Philippine government to consider granting the United States new bases in exchange for a renegotiation of a 1951 defense pact to ensure that Washington would back the Philippines militarily if a confrontation were to break out out over the contested territories. The United States closed its last Philippine military base in 1992 after the Senate rejected a new lease.

China angrily protested the driving away on April 30 of a Chinese vessel from Scarborough Shoal, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) off the west coast of the Philippines and the arrest of 21 Chinese fishermen near the area this month.

On Thursday, Philippine officials charged the fishermen, now under police custody, with illegally entering Philippine territory.

China says the shoal has belonged to it since ancient times, but Manila says it lies within its 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

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The Associated Press

MANHUNT — Japanese policemen stopping cars and questioning motorists Thursday in Kobe as the search was pressed for the killer who decapitated an 11-year-old boy there earlier this week. Despite their intensive efforts, the police have been unable to come up with a suspect or a motive in the murder.

BRIEFLY

Burmese Opposition Leader Urges Rejection by ASEAN

BANGKOK — Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader, has warned that the country's military rulers could become "even more obdurate and oppressive" if the country were admitted to the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Speaking in a recent video interview that was made public Thursday, she said that Burma, under the rule of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, would be no credit to ASEAN and called on the seven-nation group to engage with her National League for Democracy.

Her taped interview with the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma, which was smuggled out of the country, was made public two days before an ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Malaysia will consider when to admit the country along with Cambodia and Laos.

"I think what Burma risks, what the people of Burma risk, is the possibility that admission into ASEAN will make SLORC even more obdurate and oppressive than ever," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said. *(Reuters)*

Taleban Troops Counterattack

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan — Taleban soldiers advanced on this regional capital Thursday, hoping to avenge their defeat by former allies in a fierce battle for northern Afghanistan that left more than 100 people dead.

Uzbek soldiers were said to be heading south to try to block the advance of the Taleban army, which lost the city in an 18-hour battle Wednesday, four days after Taleban troops marched in without resistance. The defeat marked the first time since the Islamic army began its conquest of Afghanistan three years ago that it had to retreat from a city it captured. *(AP)*

5 Killed in Indian Rioting

BHOPAL, India — At least five persons were killed and six wounded Thursday when the police fired on a crowd of protesting cement workers in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, authorities said.

K.K. Singh, a senior official in Satna district, said the police opened fire because the mob of nearly 3,000 workers, demanding the arrest of the killers of a union leader, had gone on a rampage in the town of Mehar.

The police later imposed an indefinite curfew on Mehar, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) from the state capital, Bhopal. *(Reuters)*

Ex-Sex Slaves Protest in Manila

MANILA — Dozens of World War II sex slaves picketed the Japanese Embassy here Thursday, protesting a campaign to remove references to their wartime abuse from school textbooks in Japan.

"Some Japanese are denying our existence," said Cristeta Alcover, 70. "They should face the truth about what happened to us and admit what happened was wrong."

As many as 200,000 Asian women were forced to work in military-run brothels for Japanese troops during the war. A group of Philippine women is demanding compensation and an official apology from Japan. *(AP)*

Singapore Leaders Win Libel Damages

Reuters

SINGAPORE — A Singapore court awarded Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and senior colleagues in his governing party Thursday a record 8.08 million Singapore dollars in libel damages from a political opponent who called them liars.

Justice Chao Hick Tin said Mr. Goh and his colleagues were justified in calling the opposition politician Tang Liang Hong "an anti-English education, anti-Christian Chinese chauvinist" who was a danger to racial harmony in Singapore.

In a written judgment, Justice Chao said Mr. Tang had made "malicious" attacks on Mr. Goh, former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and others, including calling them liars over the chauvinism charge, which could have affected "their moral authority to govern."

Mr. Goh and his People's Action Party colleagues had demanded aggravated damages of 12.9 million dollars, alleging that Mr. Tang had continued to defame them in interviews he gave after he fled Singapore, saying he had received death threats.

Mr. Tang, who fled to the Malaysian state of Johor after losing a general election in January, said he would appeal the damages, which are equivalent to $5.65 million.

"Surely I am not satisfied with this because to me they are not entitled to one cent," Mr. Tang said from Hong Kong.

Mr. Tang said he intended to hire a British lawyer to argue his case but that the costs of his appeal were mounting because he now had to deposit 5,000 dollars for each case to cover legal costs.

"This is not a legal battle, rather this is a test of financial strength," he said. "Now I have got financial problems. I cannot keep on borrowing. Who would lend it to me like that?"

Mr. Tang lost the libel cases in March by failing to appear in court to defend himself against charges that were brought following interviews he gave to the press from Johor, London and Hong Kong.

The comments for which he was sued included those he made in an interview with the Singapore newspaper The Straits Times. The paper reported that he had claimed "the suits were being used as a politician weapon to squeeze him out of the political area and to 'bury him politically and financially.'"

Justice Chao said it was "clear that the above quoted remarks constituted another grave attack" on Mr. Goh, Mr. Lee and their colleagues. He said that such comments justified aggravated damages.

"This court must show its indignation at the injury inflicted on the plaintiffs," he said. "It cannot be disputed that in terms of aggravation, these 13 cases have no equal."

Mr. Goh, who is a plaintiff in three of the lawsuits against Mr. Tang, was awarded 1.4 million dollars. Mr. Lee, who is a plaintiff in five of the suits, was awarded the greatest amount, 2.3 million dollars.

Mr. Tang was also formally charged last Friday with 33 counts of tax evasion. The court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Mr. Tang faces a fine of three times the amount of tax he is accused of evading — 211,000 dollars — plus a fine of 10,000 dollars for each charge. He could also be jailed for three years on each charge.

Unrest Surges In East Timor As Indonesia Holds Its Vote

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — While Indonesia's long-serving President Suharto appeared to have won another overwhelming victory after election day passed peacefully in nearly all parts of the country, opposition forces warned Thursday that official cheating in the vote count could spark a further upsurge of violence, and rebel unrest in East Timor drew attention to that unruly region.

Of the country's 27 provinces, only in outlying East Timor was serious election-related violence reported. The police said that at least 14 people died there in a series of attacks by separatist guerrillas, including a soldier killed by rebels on Thursday while guarding a polling booth.

The attacks were clearly designed to embarrass the government and draw international attention to the guerrillas' demands for self-determination in the former Portuguese colony, which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed the following year.

Most of the attacks occurred late Wednesday on the outskirts of Dili and in several other towns. The police said that they failed to disrupt voting.

Indonesia's takeover of East Timor has not been recognized by the United Nations.

Military analysts said the latest operations by the guerrillas suggested that they were more numerous, and better armed and organized, than Indonesian security forces realized or were prepared to admit, and that, as a result, there could be more unrest and international embarrassment looming for Indonesia in East Timor.

Still, the troubled territory is far from the country's center of power.

Both foreign and local businessmen are expected to continue investing heavily in Indonesia's fast-growing economy provided there is continuing political and social stability.

Although the Indonesian stock market rose strongly Thursday — evidently in relief that campaign violence had not continued on polling day, especially on Java, where more than half the population of 200 million lives and much of the economy is based — the business community will be watching closely to see if the official voting results, due on Friday, are accepted without serious public protest.

The Muslim-oriented United Development Party, seen as the main contender to the ruling Golkar Party in the latest elections, has said it expects to lift its share of the vote to at least 30 percent, from 17 percent in 1992, with a particularly strong showing in Jakarta and other parts of Java. But the party was only winning about 15 percent.

The proportion of the vote gained by a party determines the number of seats it will get in Indonesia's legislature, the House of Representatives.

Amien Rais, head of Muhammadiyah, the country's second largest Muslim welfare organization, with 28 million members, warned that "the people who showed their strength before will do so again, and on an even larger scale," should the outcome of the voting prove to be unfair.

Analysts said the campaign violence partly reflected popular anger, especially in urban areas, at official attempts to handicap the United Development Party and weaken the third group permitted to contest the polls, the Indonesian Democratic Party.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, who was ousted from the leadership of the Indonesian Democratic Party by a government-supported faction in 1996 and barred from contesting Thursday's polls, denounced the election as unfair. She said she would not vote.

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24 Reproductive body
25 She played Gilda in "Gilda"
26 Peeples of "Fame"
27 It may be dirty
28 Chief Justice after Marshall
29 "Ditto"
31 Dines up
32 Refuse help
34 Kvetch a lot
37 Daytime TV offering
41 Like Miss Muffet's fare
42 Saavedra — (1936 Peace Nobelist)
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44 Pouch holders, for short
45 "V" villain
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48 Palm leaf
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55 Western ravines
56 Daggers
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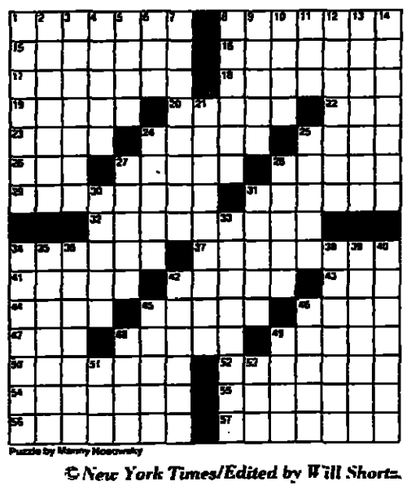
6 Genes material
7 Isolate
8 Recant officially
9 So
10 Give a little push
11 Ticker tale?
12 Vital engine conduit
13 Left over
14 Steps fancily
21 "Huh?"
24 V.I.P. from Araby
25 Wrecks
27 Theatrical
28 Points at the dinner table
30 "Heavens to Betsy!"
31 "— of the Year"
33 One losing power, perhaps
34 Puts on for a certain audience
35 Hut style
36 Surgical specialty
38 Notoriously malodorous birds
39 Manage
40 Least confident
42 Big name in insurance
45 French traffic order
46 British pens
48 Big bash
49 Shoe impression, maybe
51 Former world chess champion from Russia
53 "Smoking or —?"



Puzzle by Manny Hoschsky

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of May 29

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INDONESIA: *In Early Count, Suharto Landslide Tops Forecasts*

Continued from Page 1

the last election, in 1992, when Golkar won 68 percent of the vote, the United Development Party won 17 percent and the People's Democratic Party won 15 percent. The governing party was exceeding its own prediction of 70.02 percent for this year's total.

Officials reported no incidents of violence Thursday in this nation of 200 million people. The calm reportedly extended to East Timor, where a small rebel force has been fighting for independence since Indonesia invaded and annexed the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

In the small alleys of the Senem Market area here in the capital, there was a holiday atmosphere as neighbors chatted around the small outdoor voting pavilion and children flew kites and bought sweetened ice from a vendor.

People laughed and cheered as the manager of the voting station, wearing the orange cap of a polling official, solemnly examined and read out the ballots of the 394 voters in the neighborhood.

The nation's 124.7 million eligible voters, casting their ballots for parties rather than candidates, were to select 425 members of the largely ceremonial Parliament, who will be joined by 75 members of the politically influential military.

The 500-member Parliament will join 500 delegates appointed by the government early next year in a People's Consultative Assembly that is expected to endorse President Suharto for a seventh five-year term.

In the Indonesian system of opposition by consensus, Mr. Suharto, 75, who has ruled for 31 years, is expected to be the candidate of all three parties, as he has been in the past. Given the absence of any real opposition party, an illegal boycott movement has surfaced in recent months, joined last week by Mrs. Megawati, who announced that she would not vote.

At several polling places around Jakarta, spoiled ballots outnumbered the votes for her former party, but their numbers were still tiny.

In a statement this week, an independent election-monitoring group accused Golkar of various forms of coercion and manipulation in the campaign.

Earlier this month, the chairman of the United Development Party, Ismail Hasan Metareum, said that officials in at least one district on the island of Sumatra had already determined the result they would deliver: an 86.29 percent vote for Golkar. The local officials denied the accusation.

But political analysts said it was not so much fraud that contributed to the Golkar landslide as an overwhelming system of government and military control at all levels of society.

Major enterprises and all local government offices are controlled by the governing party. Government connections fuel the economy. The president himself appoints judges, state governors and the directors of state companies.

Comments from voters suggest that support for Golkar is fueled by a mixture of gratitude, duty, fear and the sense that the system offers no real choice.

"They have the power," explained an aerobics teacher after casting her vote for Golkar. "My mother owns a company that has a government license. We are grateful to the government. And if the government takes away her license she will be bankrupt."

Shot Fired at Hun Sen's Car in Cambodia

Reuters

PHNOM PENH — A shot was fired at a car carrying Cambodia's second prime minister, Hun Sen, apparently in an assassination attempt, officials said Thursday.

Mr. Hun Sen was not hurt, but a member of his motorcycle escort was slightly wounded as the prime minister traveled through the outskirts of Phnom Penh on Wednesday evening, they said.

Sok Phal, the Interior Ministry spokesman, said at least one shot was fired from a rifle equipped with a silencer at Mr. Hun Sen's car.

"As the car was traveling so fast the bullet hit the motorcycle escort just behind it," Mr. Sok Phal said.

The motorcycle escort was hit in the head but was not seriously wounded, the police said, adding that they were looking for two suspects in connection with the attack.

Mr. Hun Sen, who is locked in a bitter power struggle with his coalition partner, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said earlier this month that there had been several attempts on his life, or plots to kill him, over recent years.

Mr. Ranariddh said that he knew nothing about Wednesday's attack, and he condemned any use of force.

Q & A / **Francois Heisbourg**

The Outlook in France If the Socialists Triumph

If elections in France on Sunday produce a Socialist government sharing power with President Jacques Chirac, would it change the country's international role? Francois Heisbourg was a senior defense official in a previous Socialist government and is close to party leaders. Currently a private-sector aerospace executive, Mr. Heisbourg spoke with Joseph Fitchett of the International Herald Tribune about the Socialists' agenda.

Q. If the Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, becomes prime minister, what kind of working relations would he seek with President Jacques Chirac?

A. Courteous but firm. Courteous in the sense of not seeking a crisis, but firm in the sense of not letting the president enjoy a monopoly in foreign and security policy. This practice of shared prerogatives in foreign affairs started when Edouard Balladur was a conservative prime minister under President Francois Mitterrand, and the trend may be extrapolated.

Q. Where do Socialists stand on NATO, particularly the current dispute about France's bid to take over NATO's Southern command in Naples?

A. Mr. Chirac took the decision to try building a European defense identity inside NATO and not as a separate venture. Regardless of whether or not it was the right course, this initiative, if it had succeeded, would presumably have improved our relations with the United States and the Europeans. But after taking the step back to NATO, France then raised issues that prevented the policy from coming to fruition. Now it's an embarrassing deadlock. The next government would be wise to let Mr. Chirac assume responsibility for whatever has to be done to get out of the corner he painted France into.

•

Q. What changes would a Socialist government seek on a single European currency?

A. The only important nuance in the Socialists' views are some conditions they have spelled out — which amount to a more explicit presentation of the consensus in the mainstream French body politic.

Q. Including Italy's participating from the outset?

A. Absolutely. It's goes with the idea of an "economic government" for Europe to counterbalance the future European central bank — in other words, a democratically accountable institution at the European level similar to those in every European country. One could imagine, for example, a reinforced council of finance ministers in the European Union. It's not a change in approach. France has been pressing for it all along. Some people, including myself, would say that "economic government" is another way of saying "political union" — which I understand the German government has wanted all along.

•

Q. Isn't Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany leery of France's Socialists?

A. In fact, it should be easy for a Socialist government to improve French-German relations after two years in which they have deteriorated to near-crisis levels, particularly in the realm of defense policy. When Mr. Chirac decided to make sweeping military changes just over a year ago, the lack of consultation with Bonn caused real problems. The quality and carefulness of government actions have been conspicuously poor — and the Socialists would do better.

Q. On defense policy, what are the Socialist priorities?

A. There is a major concern — the impact of defense spending cuts on jobs in already depressed regions. This, along with good military reasons, provide a strong incentive to maintain current weapons programs — although I must say that there is a strong inclination in some quarters to carry out an audit of the Rafale fighter-bomber, a technological leader but our most costly program.

Q. How would a Socialist government proceed with restructuring the defense industrial sector, starting with the privatization already under way of Thomson, the defense-electonics giant?

A. The official position is that a Socialist government would not pursue the privatization of Thomson — which, I remind you, the outgoing government promised but never managed to deliver. But everybody realizes — and I mean everybody, including unions — that we have to regroup our defense industries in the way that has occurred in Germany and Britain in order to confront the challenge of U.S. competition.

The important thing is to make sure that nobody is put on the dole. That's not easy, but it's possible if the government maintains procurement and if businesses handle any downsizing intelligently. We can't afford to allow the Defense Ministry to be managed as badly as it has been in the last two years. Certainly, the next government will seal the merger of Dassault and Aerospatiale.

The other urgent issue is Airbus. It's the single most important industrial issue in Europe. It's Europe's top exporter. There has been a quiet but severe crisis in the last year among the Airbus partners that the outgoing government neglected. It's the most important aerospace business in France and Germany, and the second most important in Britain.

It's urgent to bring back cohesion with Germany and Britain about how to reconfigure the Airbus consortium to meet the challenge of Boeing-McDonnell Douglas. There's a deep festering divergence between France and Germany about what to do. It's part of the underground pollution in our relations. Get this one right, and you solve a lot of other problems down the line.

Euro Wins Loyalty Pledge in France

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Philippe Seguin, a strong possibility to become prime minister if the center-right wins legislative runoff elections Sunday, said Thursday that France would honor its word to join a common European currency.

Although Mr. Seguin, the speaker of the National Assembly, has been hostile to monetary union, he said, "France's word must be respected, our signature must be honored, we must ensure that the final phase of entry into a single currency goes ahead, with the largest possible number of partners, in particular Italy, Spain and Portugal, which are so close to us."

He said at a campaign rally that the next government's top priority must be to reduce the 12.8 unemployment rate.

But the conservative mainstream could be undermined by the far-right National Front, whose leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, condemned the right more than the left on Thursday.

"There are a certain number of candidates we hope to see defeated," he said in a radio interview. "There are more on the right than on the left."

With 3.8 million votes in the first round, making it France's third largest party after the Gaullists and the Socialists, the National Front holds the key in many districts.

Mr. Le Pen singled out candidates he said had been hostile and violent toward his party. These included the departing prime minister, Alain Juppe, a conservative, and the mayor of Strasbourg, Catherine Trautmann, a Socialist.

The Front has also called on its supporters to defeat the mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, and the minister of justice, Jacques Toubon.

Analysts said the Front candidates could cost the mainstream conservatives at least 40 seats.

Commentators also said Mr. Le Pen appeared to seeking to sow a maximum amount of confusion in France's electoral scene, which was turned on its head by the dramatic surge of the left in the first round of the election last Sunday.

Mr. Le Pen told supporters of the center-right coalition parties that a vote for the National Front would be the best "rampart" against the left. But he also made it clear in the radio interview that he regarded a victory by the left as the lesser of two evils.

Mr. Le Pen considers President Jacques Chirac to be a traitor to the right. He said it would be better to have a shared government between Mr. Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, than "five years of Chirac with full powers."

He accused Mr. Chirac of being a "criminal" whose European policies would lead to the disappearance of France.

"The people have said no to giving him a blank check, and I cannot see how he can continue to hold that policy."

Although Mr. Juppe was nominally responsible for government policy, Mr. Le Pen added, Mr. Chirac was pulling the strings. "He was in the front line. He should go," the Front leader said.

"The right has gone to the wall," he continued, "because it underestimated the profound discontent and frustration of millions of French people."

Only 12 candidates received the 50 percent of the vote needed for election in the first round. But the second round for the rest of the 577 National Assembly seats is open to candidates who won at least 12.5 percent of the total registered electorate.

Those qualifying included candidates of the National Front in 133 districts.

The party won 600,000 votes more than during the last legislative elections, in 1993.

Mr. Le Pen said earlier that he hoped the party would win up to 10 seats in the runoff, put political commentators said it was more likely that the party would enter Parliament, for the first time, with two or three seats.

Among National Front candidates believed likely to win seats Sunday are the mayor of the southern naval base of Toulon, Jean-Marie Chevalier, and Mr. Le Pen's daughter, Marie-Caroline Le Pen, who is contesting a seat in Mantes-la-Jolie, west of Paris.

The National Front calls for the expulsion of millions of immigrants and opposes European unification.

According to Mr. Le Pen, the election has produced a new political landscape in France in which "the National Front will be the pivot and the motor."

BRIEFLY

Turkish Vote Is in Limbo

ANKARA — Coalition partners in the Islamist-led government of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan failed to agree on early elections in Turkey, a deputy leader of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party said Thursday.

"We are short of reaching an agreement with our partners on a timetable for an early legislative election," Cihan Pacaci said.

A private television channel said earlier that Mr. Erbakan, whose aides have opposed early elections, unexpectedly asked True Path to agree to a legislative vote in October. But people close to Mrs. Ciller made it clear that they favored next year for the elections. *(AFP)*

One Currency for Bosnia

SARAJEVO — Bosnia's tripartite presidency has agreed on a draft law on forming a common central bank and common currency, after much bickering, the U.S. envoy to Bosnia, Robert Gelbard, said Thursday.

International mediators said the document, agreed to late Wednesday, still must be affirmed at a meeting of Bosnia's Council of Ministers and then ratified by Parliament. *(AFP)*

Ship Founders Off Italy

CATANZARO, Italy — A Turkish-registered ship ran aground in rough seas off Italy's southern coast Thursday, and about 220 persons were detained after they jumped overboard and swam ashore, the police and coastal guards said.

Most of those caught, who were expected to be served with expulsion orders, were Iraqi Kurds, the police said. Pakistanis and Indians also were on board. *(Reuters)*

German Extremist Threat

LUEBECK, Germany — Radical right groups are organizing anti-foreigner demonstrations focused in this port city where a weekend blaze, apparently set by extremists, gutted a Roman Catholic church, police said Thursday.

The police in Luebeck said they were seeking a ban on the protests, called for Saturday. *(AP)*

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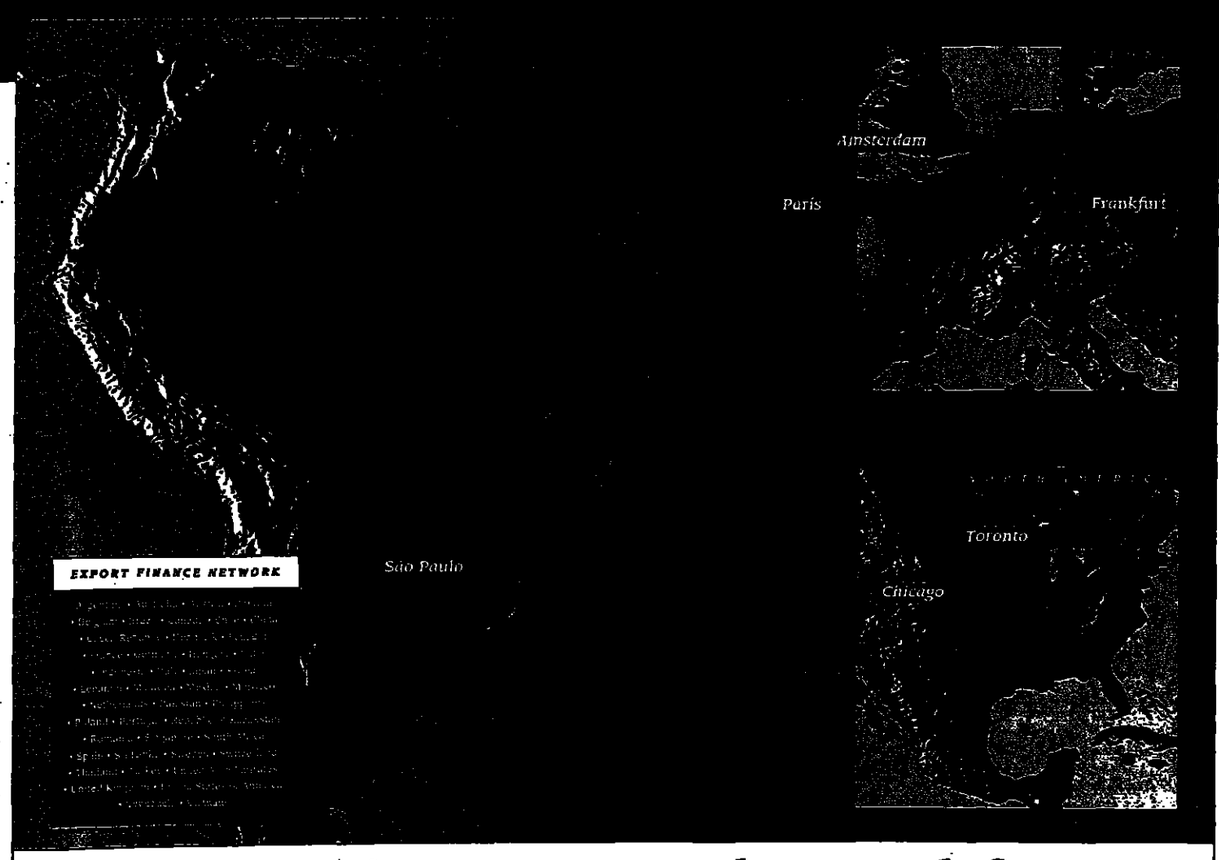

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INTERNATIONAL

Swords Drawn Over Book on Pope

Author Objects to Toned-Down Polish Version of 'His Holiness'

By Doreen Carvajal
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Just days before Pope John Paul II visits his Polish homeland, the best-selling biography "His Holiness" has become the center of a rare international battle over censorship that pits Carl Bernstein, an investigative reporter, and his New York publisher against a defiant Warsaw publishing house.

The copyright duel ended up in the civil courts of Poland this week when Bantam Doubleday Dell, a subsidiary of Bertelsmann AG, sued to seek damages and the seizure of more than 14,500 Polish copies of the biography of the Pope that they contend had been heavily edited to remove references to the pontiff's ill health, to Polish anti-Semitism and to criticism of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland.

"Clearly, the Polish publishing industry suffers from the same kind of mentality that characterized the Communist era," said Mr. Bernstein, who wrote the book with an Italian journalist, Marco Politi.

"In this case, rather than there being Communist censors, there are people who fear some kind of imagined reprobation from the church or Polish readers," added Mr. Bernstein, who is best-known for his reporting on Watergate.

Ordinarily, international copyright violations involve companies that steal a book and publish copies without paying royalties. This case is unusual, many publishing executives said, because they had never heard of a company that bought a book and then drastically changed its contents.

The book, which was published in more than 10 countries without incident, started circulating in Polish bookstores in early May despite Doubleday's orders to halt publication. The biography was published by Amber Publishing Ltd. of Warsaw, which bought the rights to the book for more than $10,000 plus royalties, a large sum in Poland, where the average rights payment is usually about $1,000.

Amber defended its treatment of the Pope in its editing of the book for sale in Poland, where the church continues to be influential and the Pope is revered.

"We thought that these two or three fragments, presenting him just before he came to Poland as a very old, ill and angry man, couldn't be good for his reception," said Malgorzata Cebo-Foniok, Amber's editor in chief. "These fragments, in our opinion, don't in any way change the whole meaning of the book. This is a wonderfully written book."

The dispute is so thorny that publishers from each country cannot even agree on how much text was changed. Doubleday, the division of Bantam Doubleday Dell that published the book, contended that the text had been reduced by almost 35 percent, as Polish translations are typically longer than the English versions. The American edition of the book had 538 pages; the Polish edition has 422 pages.

Still, Mrs. Foniok insisted that fewer than four pages were actually changed and said material had been added in a supplement to the book with a warning note that the information was subjective. Doubleday said the supplement had not restored all the missing material, and it objected to the warning note.

"It's absolutely impossible," Mrs. Foniok said of Doubleday's accusation that more than a third of the book had been removed or changed. "Our print is smaller, and the lines between the verse are smaller. I'm so amazed at these accusations because we published this book with the utmost respect for the authors."

"His Holiness," which was published in the United States in September, portrays the Pope as a savvy politician who formed a "holy alliance" during the 1980s with President Ronald Reagan to defeat communism in Poland.

Bob Edme/The Associated Press

McDONALD'S BLAST — Policemen searching through bomb debris Thursday at a McDonald's restaurant in Saint-Jean-de-Luz, southwestern France. There were no claims of responsibility for the attack.

Mexico Battle Renews Fears Ahead of Vote

By John Ward Anderson
Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — With a nationwide election campaign focusing attention on lingering grievances, a violent rural insurgency that had been dormant for six months has erupted anew, leaving at least nine people dead in two clashes between leftist guerrillas and government troops.

The most recent and deadly battle occurred Tuesday, when troops on anti-drug patrol in the southwestern state of Guerrero were attacked by about 25 men armed with automatic weapons, killing one soldier.

Later, as the troops were trying to recover the body of their slain comrade, a second battle erupted, during which two soldiers and two guerrillas were killed, an army statement said.

Government and military officials would not comment on the identity of the attackers, but Reuters quoted a military official as saying they were members of the shadowy Popular Revolutionary Army, a self-styled Marxist group that surfaced about a year ago, calling for the overthrow of the government and a new constitution.

The official said 10 soldiers were wounded in the clashes, which occurred in Atoyac de Alvarez, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) northwest of the Pacific tourist resort of Acapulco.

The renewed violence comes as Mexico prepares for a critical midterm parliamentary election on July 6.

Polls show that Mexico's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, could lose its majority in the lower house of Congress for the first time in nearly seven decades.

The election campaign also has prompted tense and violent standoffs between pro-government activists and supporters of the largely quiescent Zapatista rebel group in the southern state of Chiapas — where an uprising in support of Indian rights in January 1994 left about 145 people dead in 10 days of fighting.

Peace talks there have been stalled for months, and some Zapatista backers say their towns will boycott the elections, prompting clashes with PRI supporters.

Previously, the Popular Revolutionary Army had declared a unilateral truce until after the elections. But a rebel statement earlier this month accused the government of prosecuting a campaign of torture against it, and it predicted more battles with the army.

Abortion Could Again Be Illegal in Poland After Court Rules Law Is Unconstitutional

By Dean E. Murphy
Los Angeles Times

WARSAW — Major provisions of Poland's deeply divisive abortion-rights law were struck down this week as unconstitutional in a far-reaching decision that abortion violates the country's nascent democratic legal order.

The 9-to-3 ruling by the Polish Constitutional Tribunal virtually assures that abortion, with few exceptions, will once again become illegal in Poland, reopening one of the country's most painful social wounds just five months after the liberalized law took effect.

"The first article of our constitution names Poland as a democratic state based on the rule of law," said the tribunal's president, Andrzej Zoll, in announcing the ruling. "The highest value in a democracy is human life, which must be protected from its beginning to the end."

Stunned abortion-rights supporters, including the chief of staff to President Aleksander Kwasniewski, said the unexpected decision moved the predominantly Roman Catholic country precariously close to a "clerical state."

Leading members of the Democratic Left Alliance, the dominant partner in the governing coalition of former Communists, called for a national referendum to finally settle the matter.

"It is very depressing that several years of fighting for change have been lost because these 12 judges think they know what is best for a woman's life," said Wanda Nowicka, director of the Federation for Women and Family Planning in Warsaw.

The lone woman on the tribunal voted with the majority.

Jubilant anti-abortion advocates welcomed the decision and rejoiced that it came on the eve of Pope John Paul II's arrival in Poland this weekend for an 11-day pilgrimage. The Pope had expressed sadness and pain that his homeland, in easing three-year-old abortion restrictions, had returned to standards of morality under communism, when abortion was freely available.

BRIEFLY

Mugabe Turns Down Mandela

HARARE, Zimbabwe — President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe rejected pleas by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa for the release of five apartheid-era spies jailed in Zimbabwe since 1987 for murder and sabotage, according to a published report Thursday.

The Financial Gazette said that Mr. Mugabe told Mr. Mandela during a state visit last week that the prisoners would not be released and that four of them were Zimbabweans who broke Zimbabwean laws.

The Zimbabweans and a Briton were arrested in 1987 after a car-bombing in the city of Bulawayo killed one person. South Africa sought their release after its first all-race elections in 1994 as a gesture of goodwill toward the ousted apartheid government. But Zimbabwe insisted that the five had been hired by apartheid-ruled South Africa to spy and plan attacks on exile groups. *(AP)*

Attackers Kill 8 Near Algiers

ALGIERS — Armed men attacked a home in a rural village south of the capital, slitting the throats of six men and two women, according to press reports Thursday.

No group took responsibility for the killings, which occurred in the village of Djebabra, near Medea, on Tuesday. But the region is a stronghold of the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical organization engaged in an insurgency against the military-backed government.

The killings were the latest in a series of similar massacres that have shaken the Algerian countryside ahead of legislative elections on June 5. *(AP)*

Rebels Bomb Buildings in Peru

LIMA — More than 20 Peruvian guerrillas swarmed through an isolated village in the northern Andes and attacked public buildings with explosives, the police said.

The bombs damaged the village hall, the local governor's house and a small clinic but did not injure any people in the village of Buldibuyo. Officials said Wednesday they did not know which rebel group had carried out the attack on Tuesday. *(Reuters)*

Menem Condemns Roadblocks

BUENOS AIRES — President Carlos Menem of Argentina blamed tax dodgers and the country's "black" economy for roadblocks spreading through Argentine provinces in protest of unemployment and poverty.

Ten barricades have been placed on roads in the northwestern province of Jujuy and three in the central province of Cordoba. Argentine unemployment has risen to 17.3 percent from 6 percent since 1989. *(Reuters)*

An 800,000-Year-Old Makes a Big Ancestral Claim

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Spanish paleontologists think that 800,000-year-old fossils they found in a limestone cave represent an entirely new species of human ancestor and could be the last common ancestor of modern humans and their extinct cousins, the Neanderthals.

Other scientists are not so sure. They agree that the fossils, whatever their species, are remains of the earliest known Europeans.

As such, the fossils are critical to an understanding of how Europe was first settled by hominids, the family of all human species alive and extinct. But scientists expressed serious reservations about assigning the Spanish fossils to a separate limb on the family tree.

A Spanish team of paleontologists, led by Jose Bermudez de Castro of the National Museum of Natural Sciences and Juan Luis Arsuaga of the University Complutense, both in Madrid, based their case for a new hominid species on the bones of a boy with a remarkably modern face. The partial remains of the boy, about 10 or 11 years old, and five other individuals were discovered two years ago at the Gran Dolina cave site in the Atapuerca hills near Burgos, Spain.

Everything about the boy's cranium, lower jaw and teeth, the researchers could see, is primitive. But between the brow and the jaw, the sunken cheeks, projecting nose and other traits suggested "a completely modern pattern of midfacial topography," the paleontologists wrote in a report being published Friday in the journal Science.

This combination of modern and primitive characteristics seemed to set the Atapuerca boy apart from any previously recognized species, the researchers said. No hominids had been known to have developed such a modern face earlier than 200,000 years ago. And the primitive aspects did not seem to be like those of *Homo heidelbergensis*, the so-called Heidelberg Man of 500,000 years ago, which had been the earliest known hominid in Western Europe.

Accordingly, the paleontologists decided the fossils belonged to a separate species and proposed that it be named *Homo antecessor*, from the Latin word meaning "one who goes first."

As if proposing a new hominid species was not enough to provoke impassioned debate in paleoanthropology, the Spanish team further invited controversy by identifying the 800,000-year-old species — and not Homo heidelbergensis or the even earlier *Homo erectus* — as the probable common ancestor of Neanderthals and modern humans, *Homo sapiens*.

The robust, heavy-browed Neanderthals appeared in Europe about 200,000 years ago and vanished about 28,000 years ago. Many scientists think modern Homo sapiens evolved in Africa 200,000 to 100,000 years ago and arrived in Europe about 40,000 years ago.

Science quoted Antonio Rosas, another paleontologist from the Madrid museum and member of the team, as saying that the boy's facial traits were "exactly the morphology we would imagine in the common ancestor of modern humans and Neanderthals."

"I'm reluctant to endorse this new species," said Philip Rightmire, a paleoanthropologist at the State University of New York at Binghamton. "I wonder if the facial characteristics of one juvenile are really diagnostic. It's tricky to compare children to adults and on that basis establish a new species."

Kabila Takes Oath of Office, Vowing a Vote By April 1999

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KINSHASA, Congo — Laurent Kabila was sworn in as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo here Thursday, pledging elections in April 1999 and vowing to eradicate the legacy of the corrupt Mobutu regime he toppled.

Mr. Kabila, wearing a black safari suit, completed his rapid transformation from guerrilla leader to head of state when he took the presidential oath at a Kinshasa soccer stadium packed with 50,000 people, including five African presidents.

Mr. Kabila, who issued a decree Wednesday giving himself almost total power in the Central African nation, outlined his timetable for institutional and electoral reform in a 25-minute speech.

The highlight was a pledge to hold presidential and parliamentary elections by April 1, 1999. "That's a promise," he said. "Rest assured that this date will be respected, and no foreign influence will change that."

"We are not in a hurry," he said. "We must have order."

The point had been illustrated earlier when about 200 angry students made a mockery of heavy security surrounding the event, jumping onto the running track to press their demands for education subsidies before Mr. Kabila's arrival.

It took stewards and Mr. Kabila's heavily armed former rebel soldiers an hour to push them back into the stands and restore calm.

"I, Laurent Desire Kabila, president of the republic, swear my faithfulness to the nation and obedience to the law governing the transition period," Mr. Kabila said beneath a blazing afternoon sun.

On hand were the presidents of Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Zambia, all strong backers of Mr. Kabila in his war against Mobutu Sese Seko. Each president shook Mr. Kabila's hand and embraced him after the oath was completed.

The ceremony came the day after state-run television broadcast a proclamation giving Mr. Kabila virtually unchecked powers over the three branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — until a new constitution is adopted and elections held.

In his speech, Mr. Kabila said a commission to begin work on the constitution would be installed by September and that its work should be completed by October 1998. A referendum on the constitution should be held by December 1998, followed by presidential and legislative elections in April 1999, Mr. Kabila said.

Before the ceremony began, about 500 supporters of the opposition activist Etienne Tshisekedi, who was passed over by Mr. Kabila when he formed his transitional government last week, began chanting anti-Kabila slogans from a corner of the stands.

"Kabila has sold the country!" and "We are not afraid!' the protesters shouted.

Mr. Kabila supporters fired back with their own slogans, yelling "Go to Togo!" which is where Marshal Mobutu fled after Mr. Kabila's takeover of Kinshasa.

In a reference to Mr. Tshisekedi, Mr. Kabila said those calling for immediate elections were doing so for personal gain, not for the good of the country.

Underlying the tension in Kinshasa is a personal clash between Mr. Kabila, the professional rebel who fought his way to power, and Mr. Tshisekedi, the popular politician who for more than a decade used nonviolent methods to oppose Marshal Mobutu. The two men have yet to meet, and intermediaries have failed to find a compromise. *(AFP, AP, NYT)*

Ismail Sanogo/Agence France-Presse

A Hercules transport plane bringing Nigerian troops to the airport serving the Sierra Leone capital.

GOLD: *Kohl Takes a Chance*

Continued from Page 1

wish to take the same risks as the French prime minister, Alain Juppe, in pressing the austerity measures that led to his resignation this week, then other, less stringent ways must be found to raise the money needed to create the financial discipline demanded by the new common currency. Like revaluing gold reserves.

In Germany, that means an abrupt departure — made manifest Wednesday night — from the sniffy disdain with which Bonn has greeted attempts at what is called "creative accounting" by other European countries seeking to qualify for the new currency with one-off, revenue-raising gimmicks. Again, like revaluing gold reserves.

The disdain with which other Europeans were treated is now coming home to roost, the conservative Die Welt newspaper said.

And that departure, in turn, means what some German officials see as a body blow to the credibility and authority of the financial management with which Germany underpins its claim to lead doubtful Europeans into a new currency regime that none of them have approved in elections.

"The government's behavior jeopardizes our greatest need — international credibility," said Rudolf Scharping of the opposition Social Democrats, joining a chorus of condemnation from politicians and the press of the government's move.

Indeed, said state-run ARD television, the government actions seem to show that it has "lost touch with reality."

Even some of Mr. Kohl's supposed party allies condemned the move, arguing that, as Kurt Biedenkopf, the Christian Democrat prime minister of the state of Saxony, put it, by undermining the independence of the Bundesbank, Bonn was also undermining Germany's insistence that a future European central bank have the same independence to maintain the euro as a strong currency.

Mr. Kohl — who does not face national elections until October of next year — is no stranger to being told that economic complexities elude him. In 1990, against the advice of the Bundesbank, he announced that most former East German marks — then virtually worthless — would be swapped on a one-to-one basis for West Germany's cherished Deutsche mark.

Bundesbank economists told him the move would lead to the precipitous collapse of East German industry and mass unemployment — precisely what did happen — and the development led directly to a crisis on European money markets.

But the one-to-one swap, which enriched ordinary East Germans overnight, was widely popular. Mr. Kohl won the elections that year, but Germans are still paying income tax surcharges to finance the rebuilding of Eastern Germany.

In other words, what is important to Mr. Kohl is the political vision he sees beyond the number crunching. But that is where his newest gamble is so risky, for, in taking on the Bundesbank and threatening to tinker with the gold reserves, the German chancellor is precariously navigating among his compatriots' deepest fears.

Both the independence of the Bundesbank and the sanctity of the gold reserves are held by many Germans as their ultimate defense against the nightmare of inflation that haunted the Weimar Republic and preceded Hitler's rise to power in 1933.

Indeed, the single overwhelming reason that a majority of German citizens remain mistrustful of the euro is that its creation would mean trading their traditionally rock-hard mark for the kind of softer euro that is now being openly discussed in France.

In battling the Bundesbank, Mr. Kohl may raise money to formally fulfill the budget requirements for the new currency. But, in the process, he may raise far more questions among his constituents about the cost of a currency reform that will rob them of the very emblem of their postwar economic success.

FREETOWN: *Nigeria Troops Arrive*

Continued from Page 1

international isolation, the Sierra Leone coup was roundly condemned throughout this region, and was rapidly denounced by the United Nations Security Council, the United States, France, and the European Union, which is a major source of aid to Sierra Leone, the world's second-poorest country, by some estimates.

If the Western reaction to the coup was predictable, the reaction of Nigeria, and much of the rest of the region, to the Sierra Leone coup marks a major departure from the post-independence history of West Africa, in which military coups have been common, and regional and international efforts to reverse or condemn them rare and ineffectual.

A coup against an elected government by junior officers in Gambia in July 1994, and another in Niger in January 1996, drew little negative reaction in the region.

Nigeria's military government has made few public comments on its troop deployment in Sierra Leone, but one senior Nigerian military official said that his country "sees the coup in Freetown as a threat to regional peace and security that must be dealt with."

Commenting on events in Sierra Leone, meanwhile, Nigerian state radio said Thursday of Mr. Kabbah that he "is the elected leader of the country, and Nigeria recognizes him as such."

Diplomats said the fact that the anti-coup effort in Sierra Leone had been led by Nigeria says as much about West Africa's most populous nation as it does about political change in the region.

Nigeria has long played a leading role in a sub-region of West Africa that includes Sierra Leone and Liberia, teaming up with Guinea, a former French colony, in an effort to impose order on those two turbulent countries.

Nigeria has footed most of the multi-billion-dollar bill for a West African peacekeeping force that has spent seven years in Liberia. And after years of devastating civil war, that country has scheduled its first democratic national elections in July, an event whose success diplomats say would boost Nigerian prestige.

The long civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone have tended to feed on each other, and allowing chaos in Sierra Leone could quickly undermine a fragile democratic transition in Liberia.

Perhaps even more urgently, however, diplomats say that Nigeria is under strong internal and international pressure to end a long period of corrupt military rule. Restoring a democratically elected government in Sierra Leone might help ease the international isolation faced by the Nigerian leader, General Sani Abacha.

"This may be a case where Nigeria's interests and the interests of the region coincide neatly," said one Western diplomat. "Putting down a coup like this could be a very positive example of Nigeria using its might responsibly. From General Abacha's perspective, the prestige from that can't hurt at home or abroad."

COSMIC: *Rain From Space!*

Continued from Page 1

evolution of other planets, like Mars, that should be getting bathed in the same extraterrestrial drizzle.

"This relatively gentle cosmic rain — which possibly contains organic compounds — may well have nurtured the development of life on our planet," Mr. Frank said.

He presented the unprecedented images, with graphs and analysis, at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

The evidence of snowballs from outer space comes from images taken at both ultraviolet and visible wavelengths by Mr. Frank's specially designed instrument aboard NASA's year-old POLAR spacecraft. One shows an object streaking across the sky and bursting over Europe last Sept. 26. Researchers noted that the snowballs disintegrate at altitudes well above the orbits of human occupants aboard U.S. shuttles and the Russian space station.

The new evidence resurrects a theory widely rejected as preposterous when Mr. Frank first proposed it in 1986: that a strange population of stealthy, relatively small comets made of almost pure ice has been spraying water into Earth's upper atmosphere at a sufficiently high rate over the 4.5 billion-year life of the planet to have created all the oceans.

This week, several of Mr. Frank's leading former critics said the new evidence appears solid. The scientific community must now confront the host of extremely difficult questions the findings raise, they said.

One puzzle, for example, is how these objects could have streamed through Earth's history undetected by humanity until now. In addition, if these comets are raining down on Earth, they should also be hitting the moon, where they should have been detectable as seismic events.

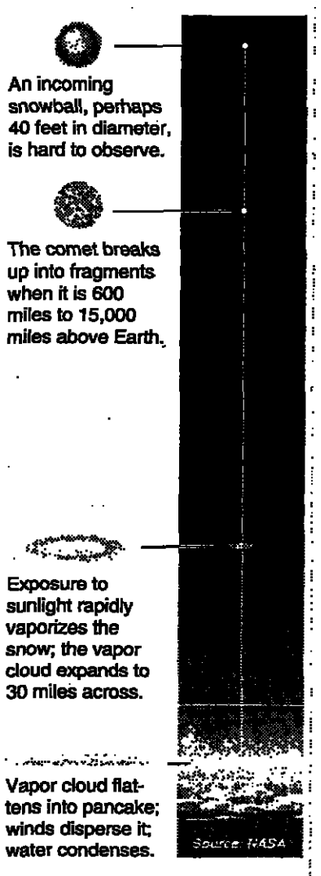
The planet's annual average precipitation is just under 34 inches, and Mr. Frank estimates the cosmic snowballs contribute enough to spread one ten-thousandth of an inch of water over the Earth's surface annually.

The consensus among scientists who have reviewed Mr. Frank's data prior to its pending publication is that he has indeed discovered a population of objects that is raining huge amounts of water into the Earth's atmosphere. But several cautioned that more data would be required before his interpretation of the evidence — particularly as to the quantities of water involved over time — could be accepted.

The new objects are different in kind from the extraterrestrial dust, rock and other material that is known to rain into Earth's atmosphere regularly. And they are different from the known large comets, of which water is a primary component. Comets are believed to be pristine remnants from the cloud of gas and dust that formed the solar system.

Water From Space

Thousands of small comets made of water ice and cosmic dust hit Earth's atmosphere every day, breaking up and dispersing water and possibly organic chemicals.



NYT

Report Says Israel Will Offer Less Than 40% of West Bank

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to offer the Palestinians less than 40 percent of the West Bank in talks on a permanent peace agreement, an Israeli daily said Thursday.

Mr. Netanyahu denied the report.

The newspaper Ha'aretz published a front-page map of what it said the West Bank would look like under Mr. Netanyahu's plan. Palestinians would control much of the West Bank's heartland, but have no territorial continuity between the northern and southern West Bank.

Israel would keep a wide swath of land in the West Bank's Jordan Valley along the Jordanian border and around Jerusalem. Most of the Jewish settlements would be in territory under Israeli control, but some would be in areas given to the Palestinians.

Senior officials in Mr. Netanyahu's office have said in the past that Israel hoped to retain 60 percent of the West Bank as part of a peace agreement.

Mr. Netanyahu said Thursday that "there is no basis to that report because I did not show to anyone" a map "nor did I draw a map."

Asked by Israeli radio whether he had a map, he said: "We have a map in our head. Who hasn't?"

CIA: *Agency Reports It Destroyed or Lost Secret Files on Iran*

Continued from Page 1

sions in Indonesia in the 1950s and a successful coup sponsored by the CIA in Guyana in the early 1960s.

"Iran — there's nothing," Mr. Cullather said. "Indonesia — very little. Guyana — that was burned."

Brian Latell, the CIA official who runs the Center for the Study of Intelligence at the agency, acknowledged that most of the Iran records were destroyed or lost in the 1960s.

He said he thought the agency still had "substantial" records on its covert actions in Indonesia, which it has promised to make public.

He said he could not discuss Guyana, which he called an operation whose existence the CIA had never acknowledged.

"Dr. Cullather is correct" about the Iran records, he said.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Latell continued, CIA officials told the keepers of the Iran records "that their safes were too full and they needed to clean them out."

"This was the culture in the early 1960s," he said. "No such culture exists any longer and hasn't existed for some time."

The directors in that era were Allen Dulles, who served from February 1953 through November 1961, and John McCone, who succeeded Mr. Dulles and served through April 1965. It is unclear whether either man was aware of the destruction.

Mr. Cullather, now an assistant professor of history at Indiana University and associate editor of the Journal of American History, came to the CIA in 1992 as a member of its history staff.

He was assigned to write a warts-and-all account of the CIA-sponsored coup in Guatemala in 1954. Mr. Gates had just made his pledge of openness and promised to make public the files on Guatemala, Iran and the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

But the CIA "quickly found there were no documents on Iran," Mr. Cullather said.

"They had been routinely purged. When I left in 1993, they had rounded up about 25 or 50 pieces of paper. There was almost nothing. The bulk of the documents on that operation were destroyed."

Mr. Latell said only "a small body" of Iran records remained. Other officials said the surviving files totaled about one cubic foot.

No one at the agency had told Mr. Woolsey about the records' destruction before he gave a speech in September 1993 rededicating the CIA to releasing the Iran files.

Ed Cohen, the director of information management at the CIA, said in an interview that strict procedures at the agency now insured that no valuable historical records were routinely burned.

"The destruction process is not mindless," Mr. Cohen said.

Historical records of secret operations are reviewed by the agency's covert operators, the CIA's general counsel, the agency's inspector general and the office of the historian, where Mr. Cullather worked.

Mr. Cullather agreed that "there's no grand conspiracy in the CIA to destroy documents."

"What there is," he said, "is neglect, or negligence" and a "culture of destruction," born of secrecy.

Staph Germ Is Resisting Antibiotics, Alarming Hospitals

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A staph germ that causes thousands of often deadly infections among hospital patients each year is becoming resistant to medicine's drug of last resort and could soon prove unstoppable.

A new strain of staphylococcus aureus bacteria that was discovered in a Japanese infant showed resistance for the first time against vancomycin, which has been in use since 1970 and is prescribed when other antibiotics fail.

The 4-month-old child developed a boil while recovering from heart surgery. The bacteria strain had an "intermediate" level of resistance to the antibiotic — one step away from becoming immune, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

"The strain is marching up the ladder of resistance," Dr. Fred Tenover, laboratory chief of the agency's hospital infections branch, warned. "It is not a cause for panic, but it is a cause for concern."

The strain has not yet reached hospitals in the United States, but health experts said it was only a matter of time. Staph bacteria are the leading cause of hospital infections.

In the meantime, the agency and other experts said, hospitals need to tighten their practices to prevent the spread of germs, and doctors should use antibiotics more sparingly. Pharmaceutical companies also are working on new types of antibiotics.

Staph bacteria are blamed for about 13 percent of the nation's 2 million hospital infections each year, according to the agency. Overall, these 2 million infections kill 60,000 to 80,000 people.

ALLIES: *Clinton Renews Goals on Bosnia*

Continued from Page 1

It was, said BBC TV's 6 O'Clock News, "a day of mutual admiration, personal warmth and shared political ideas." Indeed, the Downing Street "spin" has focused less on substance and more on the amount of time Mr. Clinton was prepared to spend with Blair.

Mr. Blair's aides have advertised relentlessly for the past 48 hours how President Clinton "extended his stay" in London, not once but twice, in order to "cement" their already "warm" relationship, the president even going so far as to speak to a cabinet meeting.

A Blair confidant noted that a lengthy, fully harmonious news conference such as that held by the two leaders Thursday simply could not have happened under Prime Minister John Major. Commentators wrote and spoke of a new "Tony and Bill axis," of a return to the close personal relationship between president and prime minister that marked the era of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan.

Adam Boulton, chief political correspondent for Sky News, which broadcast live virtually every public moment of the Clinton visit, noted that it was "a coronation of Tony Blair as a similar leader of the new era" and a "very clear expression of joint philosophy."

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Lifeline for North Korea

How do you save a drowning man who does not appear eager for rescue, and who may want to take you down with him if he sinks? This is, in rough form, the question South Korea and its allies face in attempting to assist North Korea. By reliable accounts, millions of North Koreans are suffering from malnutrition and face the prospect of starvation, and North Korea has asked South Korea and just about everyone else for food. Yet the stifling Stalinist dictatorship in North Korea also continues to find money to support the world's fourth-largest standing army and a huge, if backward, arsenal — aimed largely at its would-be benefactors in the South.

After some initial hesitations, and a certain amount of bad blood between friends, South Korea and the United States have come to a reasonable position. They have agreed to provide some food — not as much as North Korea needs, but enough, if properly handled, to stave off the worst part of the current crisis among at least some of North Korea's most vulnerable residents, and to keep open a channel of communication. But they have also made clear that they cannot save all of North Korea from what is certain to be a constant, or at least recurring, shortage as long as North Korea refuses to reform its own failed system.

Floods leading to a bad harvest are the immediate cause of North Korea's troubles. But its economy has been slipping at least since 1991, when the Soviet Union and its generous subsidies disappeared. It can no longer afford to buy fertilizer or fuel for tractors. Desperate peasants have deforested whole hillsides, guaranteeing more floods in the future. North Korea's secretive regime refuses, despite prodding from Beijing, to attempt any China-like economic reforms. As long as it refuses to give any space to individual initiative, it will not climb out of the hole it has dug for itself.

South Korea, the European Union, China and the United States are right to give food without conditions, and other countries should pitch in; Americans have never allowed politics to stand in the way of helping starving people. But the South Koreans also are correct when they argue that no amount of charity can compensate for North Korea's structural problem. South Korea and its allies can try to coax North Korea into a more conciliatory position, and they can restate the obvious: that even a slight shift toward reform and away from bellicosity could open the gates to private investment worth more than governments will ever deliver in free corn or rice. But only North Korea can decide whether it wants that lifeline.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

De Klerk Retreats

When he served as South Africa's last white president, F.W. de Klerk could be a man of vision and pragmatism. He saw that apartheid was collapsing, and recognized that a negotiated transition was the only way to salvage some power for whites. He freed Nelson Mandela and managed a transition to majority rule. This month, however, Mr. de Klerk seems to have put his blinders back on. In dealing with his nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and with the future of his own National Party, he has retreated to narrow and unrealistic decisions. He is damaging his reputation, the fortunes of his party and the chance that South Africans can live together in peace.

This month, Mr. de Klerk disbanded a National Party task force charged with redesigning the party. It was led by Roelf Meyer, leader of the party's young generation and once his most trusted lieutenant. Mr. Meyer won the respect of many black South Africans when he and Cyril Ramaphosa of the African National Congress led the teams negotiating the details of the transitional constitution. Mr. de Klerk set up the task force to help make the party into a conservative alternative to the ANC for voters of all races.

Mr. Meyer feels that the party, which now enjoys the support of only 14 percent of South Africans, is doomed unless it is reconstituted with a mostly black leadership. He is certainly right, but the party hard-liners did not appreciate this view. They persuaded Mr. de Klerk to close down the task force. Mr. Meyer then resigned from the party to start a new political movement.

Also this month, Mr. de Klerk announced that his party would no longer cooperate with the country's Truth Commission. His statement came after commission leaders questioned his testimony that he knew nothing about apartheid-era atrocities. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who heads the commission, said he himself came to Mr. de Klerk when he was president with information about police brutality.

The National Party's withdrawal will probably not block the commission's quest to uncover the truth about apartheid-era crimes. The commission retains subpoena power, and those who have applied for amnesty for their crimes cannot turn back. The change will mean that the National Party will no longer participate in party testimony, where it had provided little of value anyway. But the withdrawal will hurt the commission symbolically, fueling the erroneous but widespread feeling among whites that it is targeting the apartheid-era governments.

Mr. de Klerk's decisions show that he has not yet come to grips with the consequences of the process he set in motion. His father was one of apartheid's architects, and he apparently cannot bring himself to admit that its top leaders knew of the crimes that were necessary to prop up minority rule. People who know him say he is bitter, feeling that blacks and particularly Mr. Mandela owe him gratitude that he is not receiving.

South Africa needs a full accounting of the past, and a political system in which parties are divided by ideology, not race. Mr. de Klerk's siege mentality is a setback to both goals. He would do his country a service if he either returned to the leadership qualities that marked his presidency or got out of politics altogether.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Tamagotchi Fever

Knowing that novelty fades, game companies generally market new versions of their electronic toys long before children lose interest in the first one. The makers of a Japanese cybergame called Tamagotchi have taken the strong-arm approach, however, with a dictatorial little toy that threatens to die if the child stops playing with it.

The game shows a baby chick that hatches from an egg on a liquid-crystal screen the size of a watch face. The pet "sleeps" at night. But it requires constant attention during the day — beeping when it wants to be played with, fed, or given medicine for its illnesses. A happiness meter on the device rates the owner's parenting skills.

The pet expires if left unattended for more than five or six hours. The Japanese version of the toy marks the pet's demise with a gravestone and a cross. The American version announces death with angel wings. The toy can be reset to grow a new pet, but the first one is gone forever.

Children enlist their parents to help during the day, or take the toy to school and hover over it. A New York state school has banned the toy after third graders taking a test started putting down their pencils to "feed" it.

Sensing the backlash, manufacturers say next fall's Tamagotchi will feature — what else? — a pause button. Parents who have suffered through the first version will doubtless prefer this one. With any luck, the kids will lose interest in a pet that no longer requires their constant attention.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Immigrants Pay Off

Immigrants in New York work about 10 percent more often than people who are citizens of the United States and the city. They are net contributors in fairly significant amounts to the economy of the city. When I see immigrants coming in, by and large I see people who are going to work, people who are going to establish jobs for other people.

— Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, quoted in The Washington Post.

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This Time the West Can Get It Right in Congo

By Jeffrey D. Sachs and Robert I. Rotberg

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — The United States, France, Belgium, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank helped create the disaster of Mobutu Sese Seko's Zaire. Today the West has a moral duty to help rebuild the country, even if the new leader isn't making the task easy.

So far, Laurent Kabila has shown little interest in sharing power with the opposition. It seems likely that he will rely more on direct military support from Uganda, Rwanda and Angola to consolidate his rule than on the allegiance of his countrymen.

Yet, all uncertainty about Mr. Kabila aside, this is the moment when well-directed Western efforts can have the greatest effect in nudging the new government toward observing basic human rights, stabilizing the economy and restarting rudimentary public services.

Western goodwill should be demonstrated first; we can hope that Mr. Kabila's can follow.

How do we ensure that we aren't creating another Mobutu? All aid should be provided step by step, conditional on the gradual development of economic order, political freedom and the rule of law.

First, the United States should abandon its calls for early elections. These will have to wait.

The experience of neighboring Uganda is instructive. Since Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986, it has recovered from the most harrowing depths of violence and economic collapse to become one of Africa's fastest-growing countries, while improving its human rights record.

Restoring basic public order — demilitarizing, inoculating against infectious disease, resettling refugees, rebuilding roads and power plants — is a surer underpinning of peace and future political reconciliation than holding elections in the midst of chaos.

This gradual approach has also worked for Mozambique, which was locked in civil war until 1992 and held free elections two years later.

The West must also work with the new government to recover the Mobutu clan's stolen loot. Mr. Mobutu pocketed much of the $10 billion in loans he received over the years. Western governments, needing a Cold War ally, looked the other way.

Now the West can seize and sell his real estate holdings in Europe and Africa, while European countries must step up efforts to freeze his bank accounts. Any money recovered should go to the government of Congo, as the country has been renamed.

The least of Congo's worries should be the servicing of Mr. Mobutu's debts. In the short term, the country should be given legal protection to avoid harassment by creditors and the seizure of its assets abroad. In the longer run, Congo needs assurances that the West will cancel most or all of its $14 billion in debt (almost three times its GNP).

Debt relief in such cases is vital. In the early 1990s, Poland, for example, was destitute, so Western governments and banks forgave about $15 billion in outstanding loans. Last year Poland had Europe's highest growth rate.

Congo also needs money to pay the police, buy vaccines, support war refugees and rebuild roads.

The government has no taxation system, and inflation has rendered the currency worthless. The World Bank and especially the Europeans, historically the biggest meddlers in Zaire's affairs, should provide the bulk of the hard currency of about $900 million in the next year.

For its part, the United States should provide some money as well as food and medicine. It can also do more to help relief agencies fight disease.

There can be no illusions of quick progress in Congo. Its wealth has been pillaged for decades.

Today the Western nations, once agents of despair in Zaire, can help to start the rebuilding of one of the most troubled parts of the world.

Mr. Sachs, who has advised Poland and other countries on economic policy, directs the Harvard Institute for International Development. Mr. Rotberg coordinates the institute's southern Africa programs. They contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Southern Africa's Beacon State Has Made a Good Start

By Flora Lewis

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has become the proverbial glass, how close to full or empty depending on how you look at it. The great euphoria released by equal-rights elections and majority rule in 1994 has gone now, and, expectably, people complain that improvement in their lives is coming too slowly.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who effectively runs the country now while President Nelson Mandela remains the grand arbiter and idol, told a World Economic Forum meeting in Zimbabwe last week that the difference in needs between urban and rural poor must be kept in mind in assessing progress.

He told proudly of attending a recent celebration of the delivery of clean water for the first time to the one millionth villager. "This is a tremendous change," he said. "Always before they had to walk for miles every day to get water, the bucket on the head."

Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg and now home to 3 million, has mostly paved streets where there were only muddy lanes. And while there are still dense areas of tin and pasteboard shanties, there are also lots of neat, attractively designed brick houses, but not yet enough shops.

"We only buy here when we forget to bring something from the city," a resident said. "It's a lot more expensive."

Blacks as well as whites complain bitterly about the tremendous rise of crime and the incompetence and corruption of police.

Many consider the center of Johannesburg, with its skyscrapers and formerly fashionable hotels and shops, too unsafe to frequent. Elegance has moved out to suburban centers, but people are wary there, too.

Still, there is an air of optimism and pride. Things aren't moving fast enough to suit hardly anyone, but they are moving.

"We are going from the leadership of a prophet to the leadership of a manager. Mbeki is a manager, and that is to the good," said Harald Pakendorf, an Afrikaner editor who lost his job before the big sea change for criticizing apartheid.

He observes that much that had seemed impossible less than 10 years ago is now so taken for granted that no one comments. "We have an elected president, and he will step down and be succeeded by another elected president."

The multiracial democratic institutions are being consolidated, the legislature and the judiciary are challenging the executive, the press is lively and critical.

The major political parties are at the beginning of what is bound to be a broad restructuring, with shifting constituencies and a different kind of ethnic clash.

So is South Africa well launched on its way to being the beacon for the "renaissance," as everyone here puts it, of a bedeviled continent at last achieving an era of peace and decent living?

It is still far from clear, and South Africans are torn within themselves about whether they want the burdens that go with the leadership that no other state is in a position to offer.

After crime, the biggest public complaint is immigration. Young white professionals are still leaving, not massively but at a steady, draining rate, and other Africans are pouring in, mostly illegally. Estimates of their numbers so far vary from 2.5 to 7.5 million. They are visible and resented.

One report said one in five residents of a large section of Johannesburg speaks French at home, arrivals from Francophone Africa. Nigerians are particularly disliked and blamed for rising drug trade.

The Southern Africa Development Community, organized against South Africa under the old regime, now looks to South Africa to be the engine to haul the whole region toward prosperity. South Africa alone has 78 percent of the GDP of the 14-state area. That evokes fears among the others that it will overwhelm them and swallow them up if they liberalize trade and join in seeking investments as they have been told to do.

Jeffrey Sachs, the Harvard economist who specializes in advising reforms, believes that there is good potential for southern Africa to take off on East Asian tiger-style growth if it follows the right policies. Certainly the resources are there, and increasingly the conviction that there is nothing inherently wrong with African societies to prevent them from doing it.

But the politics don't encourage it. South Africa did finally move in an attempt to mediate the transition in ex-Zaire, but with considerable reluctance. It isn't looking to be the continental referee. It hasn't the confidence, apart from the means.

Still, it likes the idea of being a role model and it has made a good start. A lot depends on its success.

© Flora Lewis

The Resolute NATO and EU Goal Is Security for All of Europe

By Klaus Kinkel

The writer is the German foreign minister.

BONN — In 1997, NATO and the European Union will open their doors to Central and East European countries. These countries are coming home to Europe.

Our aim is to bolster their democratic and economic reform processes. The European Union is striving to weave an ever closer network of economic and political ties and to integrate new members. The common EU and NATO aspiration is to spread stability, peace and prosperity in a growing and more open Europe.

NATO's opening is a process that must evolve step by step and with circumspection. Not all states wishing to join can be taken in immediately.

It will be instrumental to the overall success of the undertaking that we offer all of these countries a viable perspective. We have demonstrate that the Euro-Atlantic community remains open to them.

Therefore we need what we in Germany call a "Begleitstrategie," a parallel strategy paving the way into this community of values for those partners who will not join NATO in the first round of enlargement.

I am speaking of a comprehensive, orchestrated approach that exploits the full range of our political instruments: NATO and EU, WEU and OSCE, regional and bilateral cooperation. There must be no new divisions in Europe. Security, stability and prosperity will be fostered and consolidated *on the whole continent.*

In this spirit, by the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Tuesday in Paris we created a durable basis for our security partnership with Russia. A charter with Ukraine is on its way.

But what can NATO do for those countries that would like to join but are not yet able to do so? First, in Madrid in July the alliance will reaffirm its pledge that the door will remain open to further candidates. NATO is not a closed shop.

Second, a package of far-reaching measures under the Partnership for Peace program will further intensify and deepen practical cooperation.

Third, the new Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will place political cooperation on a higher plane, lend it a new quality.

However, bilateral security guarantees, too, are sometimes discussed. I don't find this a very attractive proposition. Bilateral guarantees would not live up to the challenges of today's Europe, which is defined by post-Cold War multinational security structures.

We must develop these further and not revive instruments of security policy that would risk leading us back into the past. We must not re-create zones of national influence and dependency.

Neither do we want a special status, say, for the Baltic states. The Baltic states themselves do not want a special status, but rather expect a clear message from the alliance that will serve to enhance their security, sovereignty and independence. I am committed to work such a signal from the alliance.

At the summit in Madrid, the heads of state and government could declare that NATO's security is inextricably linked to that of the whole of Europe; that the consolidation of democratic and free societies on the entire continent in accordance with OSCE principles is therefore of direct and material concern to the alliance; that it shall be NATO's policy to support free nations which share the values of the alliance; and that among those sharing these values are the members of the European Union as well as the candidates for EU membership, including the Baltic states.

A formula enshrining these principles could effectively meet the concerns of those who fear being left in a security "limbo." These fears are understandable from a psychological and historical point of view. By addressing them, we will be helping to consolidate a comprehensive, cooperative security structure for all of Europe.

International Herald Tribune.

China Woos Burma

By Peter W. Rodman

WASHINGTON — Burma, as the West isolates it, is rapidly developing closer ties with China. Political, economic, military and intelligence links are expanding.

China is wooing Burma. Beijing's likely aim is achieving naval access to the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean — a quantum leap in China's strategic position in Asia.

In June 1994, Japanese sources reported that China had completed construction of radar bases on two Burmese islands in the Indian Ocean, Great Coco and Little Coco, which are on lease to China. Work was about to begin on a port.

In January 1996, the head of the Rangoon junta, General Than Shwe, visited Beijing, where he and Chinese President Jiang Zemin had "warm and friendly" talks reflecting "extensive consensus on major regional and international issues."

In April 1996, General Zhang Wannian, a vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, paid a six-day visit to Burma and hailed "good-neighborly friendship."

In October 1996, General Zhang invited General Maung Aye, the junta's No. 2 figure, for a return visit to Beijing. Prime Minister Li Peng received him and praised the expansion of military exchanges between China and Burma.

The Far Eastern Economic Review reported early this year that General Maung Aye's October visit produced a concrete agreement to expand military cooperation. China is to train 300 Burmese air force and naval officers and provide additional staff places in Chinese staff colleges. The two sides pledged to exchange intelligence on threats to their respective countries. China is also to provide "fiscal assistance" to Burma, which could mean weapons supplies at "friendship prices."

All this is one big reason why America's friends in the Association of South East Asian Nations disagree with the U.S. policy of isolating Burma and are eager to bring it into their group — to counter the Chinese attempt to embrace it.

The West's sanctions on Burma are thus a great strategic boon to China. The law of unintended consequences is at work here, as in so many other instances where Americans seek moral ends without all that much care as to the practical effects.

The writer, a former White House and State Department official, is director of national security programs at the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom and a senior editor of National Review. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

Afraid of Independence for the Baltics?

THE unwillingness of NATO members to deal firmly with Russia during preparations for the Madrid summit, when what is inside and what is outside of Europe is being defined, leaves us balancing precariously.

To decide *not* to decide, for the time being, on what to do with the Baltics demonstrates a lack of courage more than careful consideration. Pondering and hesitation can sometimes save the day, but this is not such an occasion. NATO member states know what is right, they have the power; it is hard to explain such diffidence.

Some of the countries aspiring to NATO membership have histories in which the right to choose their own destiny, to enjoy European and American values, was brutally denied by foreign forces of occupation. Such experiences are not easily forgotten, especially if the foreign power starts to replay imperialistic tunes.

Has anyone in Moscow asked himself why states in the proximity of Russia are racing one another to become members of NATO? History books (but perhaps not Soviet ones) reveal one aspect of our motivation for joining NATO.

In the Baltic States, Western refusal to recognize our incorporation by violent force into the Soviet Union led us to understand that our wish to be free was supported. That was an encouragement for us to hold our ground and stand up for our culture and values.

Many have thought that the battle for independence of the Baltic states was won in 1991 at the barricades when Soviet military units backed away from unarmed Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians standing up for their national heritage and human rights. Now, in 1997, a new confrontation may be emerging between an imperial wish to dominate and the fundamental right of nations to shape freely their own destiny irrespective of their geopolitical situation.

This time the battle for the Baltics will have nothing to do with barricades. It will be fought out in closed conference rooms. Will our friends remember the principles of simple men in their own histories who stood up against foreign domination? Such principles will never be forgotten by Latvians.

— Valdis Krastins, Latvian ambassador in Prague, commenting for the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Baldness Germ

PARIS — Heigho! It is to a germ, to a microbe, it seems, that baldness must be set down! The loss of hair between the age of twenty-five and thirty no longer seems to be due to the existence of arthritic diathesis; but is the result, purely and simply, of an infection of the pileous follicle. And do not jibe at the conclusions at which a Parisian dermatologist has arrived. The etiological notion is of the highest importance from the point of view of the prophylaxis of ordinary baldness and even of its cure.

1922: Rail Wages Cut

NEW YORK — The Railway Labor Board has announced a cut of $48,000,000 in the wages of 400,000 railway employés, affecting mostly maintenance and way workers. If similar cuts are extended in other pending decisions, that will add at least $100,000,000 to savings. The labor members of the Board dissented from the announcement. They intimate that the cut constitutes an attack on the living-wage principle.

1947: Frankfurt Plans

FRANKFURT — Positive steps were taken here today [May 29] to build Frankfurt into the capital of Western Germany. A series of conferences was held here between American and British officials on the basic problems of accommodating both Allied and German staffs of the bi-zonal agencies to be brought here about October 1. This development, coincident with the formation of an economic council for the rehabilitation of Western Germany, reveals that the Allies have taken positive measures to meet a situation created by a lack of a four-power accord on Germany.

GENERAL

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Herald Tribune

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OPINION/LETTERS

A U.S. Message to Bibi and Yasser: Get Serious or Don't Count on Us

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — As the Arab-Israeli peace process continues sliding downhill, American officials say they may soon have to opt for one of two extremes: either "The Plan" or "The Phone Number."

Either the president lays down, publicly, exactly what steps the United States believes Israelis and Palestinians must take to get the process back on track, or he gives them both the White House phone number, 202-456-1414, and tells them to call when they're serious. As one top White House official put it: "Either we step forward or we step backward, but where we are now is not working."

The temptation to walk is great. It would leave Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu both standing stark naked before their own publics, without any U.S. mediators to hide behind or blame. But such strategic neglect would come at a price that the United States may not want to pay.

Mr. Arafat is not and has never been a democrat. He is at heart a typical Arab autocrat, for whom corruption, censorship and abuse of political opponents comes naturally. Yet as a result of the Oslo process he has also presided over the creation of a Palestinian Parliament, in the freest election ever in the Arab world.

Palestinian elites were hopeful that as Mr. Arafat shifted the basis of his authority from leader of an armed struggle to leader of a peace process bringing Palestinians land and prosperity, he would be willing to — indeed would have to — tolerate more democracy within Palestinian life. In Jordan, King Hussein began fostering a freely elected Parliament and a freer press to broaden his legitimacy for making peace with Israel and reforming Jordan's economy.

> ***"Where we are now is not working," a White House official says.***

With the collapse of the Oslo process, these baby steps toward democratization are being quashed, and Mr. Arafat and King Hussein are reverting to form.

This is in part because both men had made huge bets on Oslo. As it crumbles, they feel increasingly politically exposed. Their critics are now out in full force, declaring, "I told you this would never work." And so their natural inclination is to silence all critics before they become a serious political challenge.

Mr. Arafat's outrageous arrest of one of the finest Palestinian journalists, Daoud Kuttab, was a good example. Mr. Kuttab's sin was that his infant Palestinian educational television station, a direct outgrowth of the peace process and the only real competitor to Mr. Arafat's official station, was broadcasting debates of the Palestinian legislature, another outgrowth of the peace process.

The Palestinian legislators often criticize Mr. Arafat's rule. When things were going well he was ready to ignore much of it, but with his peace strategy in shambles he sees this sort of criticism as a more serious threat, and so he arrests Mr. Kuttab. (He released him on Tuesday.) In Jordan, King Hussein, also feeling besieged, has been clamping down on the press and tightening rules for who can run for office.

Mr. Netanyahu loves to lecture the Arab states about how they must become democracies, but he is just trying to score propaganda points. He is utterly blind to the relationship between the peace process and the process of internal change in the Arab world.

Yitzhak Rabin chose not to build in Jerusalem because King Hussein wrote him and said such a move would badly undercut the king at home. With Mr. Netanyahu, King Hussein comes to Israel, asks him not to build in Jerusalem and the Israeli announces — at a joint news conference with the king — that he is going ahead anyway. Hello?

It would be absurd to suggest that the peace process is a cure-all for Arab politics. Democratization will come to the Arab world only after fundamental changes in Arab political culture. But the peace process helps promote internal changes, opens Arab societies and business to more outside contacts and puts some power in the hands of Arab democrats, like Daoud Kuttab.

That is exactly why Syria's Hafez Assad fears it, and why fledgling Arab democrats in Palestine or Jordan will be much worse off without it. Which is also why, as much as I would love to stick Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu with the phone number, that would be too easy on them. They might never call.

The United States needs to come up with a clear-cut plan that engages every Israeli and Palestinian, presents them with some real choices and, ideally, enlists their pressure to move forward.

The New York Times

On America's Open Road, Much Unseen Is There

By Kyle Jarrard

I believe that much unseen is also here. — "Song of the Open Road," by Walt Whitman.

PARIS — To speak about an entire nation perhaps one needs the poem, or the photograph or song. Prose hardly scratches the surface of America, especially in these sound-bite days of errant groups shedding their containers to fly to the passing comet. It is as if the country is too vast an entity with too many layers. How to take the pulse of such a beast as it lies there in all its Whitmanesque openness?

MEANWHILE

A lot would remain unsung, unspoken. But there would be clear signals, darkly joyous ones even, as you head down the open road from Austin, that revolutionary citadel gone yuppieland, into the wilds of East Texas. Things of the ranching sort seem well enough along here. Oaks reach out over the road mile after mile, and then you're in the little town of Lexington. There's a funeral going on, and the sheriff is pacing around in the rain in a dark slicker. Trucks and cars line the streets. It had to have been someone everybody knew, and somehow it is not sad at all but an affirmation of continuity and endurance.

On down the highway, in Caldwell, the old boys playing 25-cent video slots at the convenience store look you over. A nod or two get exchanged, that's all. You're not from here, but that's O.K. Going through Madisonville, the Methodist Church sign proclaims: "When you throw mud, you're the one losing ground."

Then you're in pine country, the Davy Crockett National Forest. You look into the dense growth. Hell, he's out there somewhere, in the mist, true American frontier man. The American individual, the saving grace of a nation caught up in a maniacal sense of wanting to belong to anything just so long as one is not alone. What would Crockett have to say to that? I put Whitman out there with him in the brush and shadows chanting, *Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road*. They would plunge ahead into the green, not look back upon our neurotic concerns.

You cruise into Lufkin, where there's not a lot to do except shoot the breeze with a buddy at a café and listen to some old boy rattle about that cigar-chomping bastard down in Cuba. Hell, he's really pro-Castro, my friend says later. It's easy to imagine things here staying the way they are a while longer. Here, the nation is just fine, indeed.

And, no, you wouldn't know anything's wrong with America even if you went all the way up to Leawood, Kansas, either. Where, if you're an urban planner and a marriage counselor in your 40s, with two brilliant, healthy children, you're cozy and safe on the outskirts of Kansas City. It helps very much that you're white, well-educated. It also helps that you tell your kids about intolerance, racism, bigotry, colors. Here, the trees took a beating from a freak snowstorm last autumn, before the leaves had a chance to fall. But they still stand tall. They seem to have been winning the game against nature a long time, like the people who will sit in their shade this summer and rock and drink iced tea.

And yet there is no denying the black turns in the byway, the pockets of blight and suffering. You see there's something wrong with the nation when the homeless and insane curse you just for walking down their sidewalk in Berkeley, California. No one cares about these people anymore, but they are not going to go away.

You also know something terrible is afoot when a friend tells about visiting a gun show in Topeka, Kansas, and seeing a lot of regular-looking people buying weapons and stuffing them into their tinted-window vans. Maybe it's those militia people, some say. Hell, no, it's just scared Americans protecting themselves, others say back. From what? From everything.

Whole areas are no-go now, fenced off by ideology and hatred. This, too, is the United States in all its madness, a fevered thing that seems to relish its woes.

And yet there remains the echo of Whitman's songs coming up through the body: *Will you come travel with me? Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?*

Come, then, when winter is not quite over up in the Northwest, and bravely be the only one to drive way out of the way up to the gate of Mount Rainier National Park even though you know it'll be closed. Just to see the trees, imagine that prestigious mountain lost in the clouds and marvel at all that undisturbed snow. And then turn around and drive all the way back where you came from. You saw something of the heart of your country, and you keep it.

International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rule Britannia

Regarding "Labour Party: A Model for French Left (and Right)" (May 2):

The suggestion that Britain's Labour Party is a model for France has much to commend it. It highlights the existence of new ideas both social and fiscal that France — as well much of Europe — needs so badly.

Many people in France know there are serious problems, with unemployment at almost 13 percent one clear sign. Yet they are naturally concerned about going to a complete market-oriented economy like that of the United States, as they rightly assume it would jeopardize their basic socialist infrastructure. However, no new ideas were proposed in the French election.

France's Socialists still cling to their power-of-the-state mantra despite their complete failure between 1981 and 1983 and their forced reversion to exactly those fiscal policies that Britain's Labour Party now supports.

The right proposes the correct fiscal policies but gives no thought to the social consequences. And it has been unable to carry out most of its proposed reforms.

What is needed in France, and in Europe generally, is a socially aware policy with an understanding of the fiscal effects of globalization — that is, exactly what the Labour Party is proposing.

Western Europe must do something soon or serious social and financial havoc will follow. We need a new way of working. We cannot just copy the Americans but neither can we ignore the way that they have changed the world. Today there is only one party in Europe that is melding the old, socialist values with the new, financial realities, and that is the Labour Party of Britain.

ALASTAIR ARMSTRONG.
Ribeauville, France.

Regarding "A Modern Britain, With America and in Europe" (Opinion, May 21) by Robin Cooke:

It is misleading for Britain's foreign secretary to suggest that Britain, or any other European country, has the means to defend the rule of international law.

We live in a world in which only one country is capable of enforcing the rule of international law and maintaining some semblance of world order: the United States.

Unfortunately, it is the U.S. taxpayer who has to bear the brunt of the cost while EU citizens (among others) enjoy the fruits — as well as the benefits of their costly welfare programs.

TIM STEVENS.
Shanghai.

WHO Achievements

Regarding "Good Riddance" (Editorial, May 3):

The editorial attacked the outgoing director-general of the World Health Organization, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, saying he had brought the agency notoriety for bad management and a deterioration of its programs.

However, since his tenure began in 1988, WHO-led programs have reduced new cases of polio by 90 percent, guinea worm disease by 96 percent and leprosy by 82 percent.

These plus measles, neonatal tetanus, lymphatic filariasis, Chagas disease and river blindness are on the verge of being wiped out globally.

In 1990, for the first time 80 percent of the world's children were vaccinated against six major childhood diseases, and this level has been maintained or improved every year since then.

Between 1980 and 1995, life expectancy worldwide increased by almost five years.

It was a WHO team that extinguished the frightening outbreak of Ebola fever in Zaire in 1995. WHO developed the DOTS therapy for tuberculosis, which is beginning to roll back this recrudescent disease, shamefully neglected in the 1980s.

These and other WHO achievements are documented in the 1997 World Health Report and on the WHO Internet home page.

MARTHA DeWITT.
Geneva.

Correction

An editorial *(IHT, May 27)* citing Continental Airlines' disclosure that a passenger flight illegally carried oxygen generators said the cargo hold lacked smoke detection or fire-suppressants. But the illegal shipment, which Continental reported to the Federal Aviation Administration upon discovery, was in a cargo hold that had detection and suppressant equipment.

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GENERAL

THE INTERMARKET Continues on Page 12

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Sunshine And Snow In Sicily

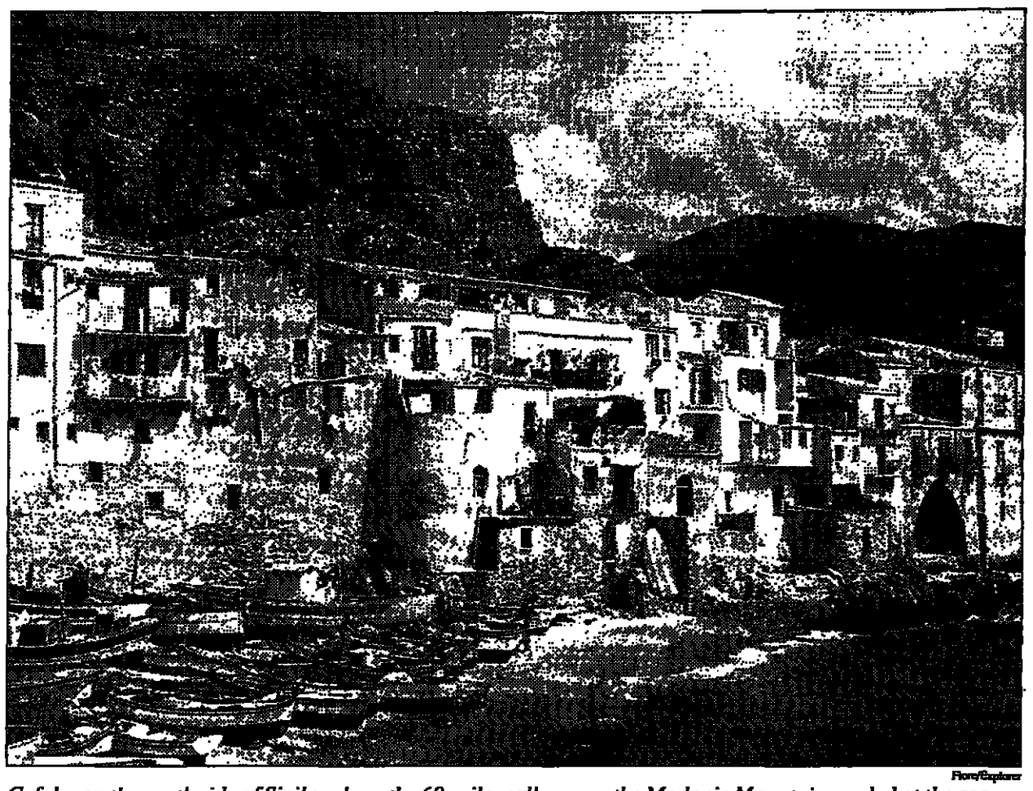
Wildflowers Lost in Fog

By Jason Goodwin

CEFALU, Italy — "Ah!" cried the judge, gathering up the scene with a sweep of his arm. "Sicily!" Dutifully we peered after him, through the swirling snow, into the fog, and laughed. Sixteen of us had chosen the Alternative Travel Group walking tour across a remote region of Sicily, the Madonie Mountains, part of which is a national park. And of course we were lured by the prospect of wandering an unspoiled upland, carpeted with cyclamen and asphodel, borage and wild orchids.

By the third day, the truth had dawned, bleak as the sky itself, or as the ragged limestone crowning the Madonie ridges. An unseasonable cold front had moved in, and we abandoned our dreams of balmy airs and wild fragrance underfoot for snow down the back of the neck and sodden feet, for stiffish climbs in a frozen wind and the prospect of clambering to mountain passes we could hardly see. Our group, ably led by a guide, Tim Neal, with a manager, Carmelina Ricciardello, took it very well — with what some call a British stiff upper lip, and what the British refer to as a sense of humor.

Sicily was tossed down through the centuries, from ancient Greeks to imperial Romans, to Byzantines and Saracens, until it was seized in the 11th century by Norman adventurers. Under the Norman kings, all the crosscurrents of the Mediterranean world, all the strands of its own diverse history, were fused into an efflorescence of cultural brilliance. For two centuries the island flourished, free from the racial and religious bigotry that gnawed medieval Europe; but the Muslims slowly died away, attitudes hardened against the Jews, and when, at last, the Normans succumbed to exhaustion and decay, Sicily subsided into relative insignificance, under the sleepy rule of Spanish kings.



Flore/Explorer

Cefalu, on the north side of Sicily, where the 60-mile walk across the Madonie Mountains ended at the sea.

MARK OF THE PAST

Such a past has left its mark. A strange Good Friday ceremony had convulsed the old hill town of Enna, in the heart of Sicily, where our walk began: Eerie hooded figures marched in the streets (although I saw some reassuring spectacles glinting through the eyeholes); drums beat; lavish catafalques were maneuvered up the cathedral steps by ranks of bearers. And when I began to ask among the good-natured crowd for an explanation of this midnight torchlighted scene, I was told that it was a Spanish thing.

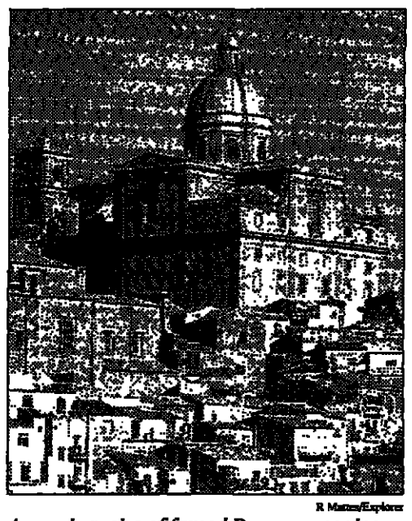
The region we walked across, from Enna to Cefalu, 60 miles (100 kilometers) away on the northern coast, is an unspoiled upland that goatherds share with wildflowers, foxes, deer and birds of prey — even wolves, supposedly. Towns and villages are rare, yet while the drums and flares of recorded history could seem remote, almost every view disclosed the remains of a castle, and occasional mountain towns were warrens of narrow streets and concealed courtyards, where even the ubiquitous laundry, strung across the lanes, resembled camouflage.

WAITING TO ERUPT Inscrutable is Etna, only waiting to erupt; it does so massively every hundred years. Burrow deep enough into an old Sicilian farmhouse, and you generally arrive at a cave from which the entire edifice has grown, century after century. Enna and Gangi, another medieval hilltop town, stand unwelcomingly high upon their peaks; but Cefalu, where our walk ended at the sea, is crouched beneath a gigantic boulder, from whose fortified heights you are hideously drawn to leap down into the cathedral square.

Sicily's society remained feudal well into this century, and by and large its people have been poor, too. They have developed — along with a certain reasonable scorn for their rulers — a knack of making their own arrangements. Money which pours down here from Rome and Brussels — for the poverty seems not to go away — frequently slips into unintended channels; while the island's most notorious export, the mafia, has its roots both in the mountain terrain that engendered the code of honor, and in the poverty that encouraged emigration.

Typical Sicilian cooking, so Carmelina explained, uses the best ingredients but is spartan; they call it *cucina poverina*, and at least one of its manifestations — spaghetti dressed with garlic and bread crumbs — was a favorite with the group. People are still apparently leaving the countryside for the towns, and the coastal resorts are thronged in summer with visitors from northern Europe; but still up on the Madonie you can hear sheep bells, and the deeper clang of cowbells.

The villages we walked through did not seem beautiful — made of serviceable concrete, mostly, with sheds and chicken coops built from any scraps that came to hand. But a deep rustic culture has survived: in a vineyard, say, painfully worked over with a hoe, or in a row of figs, their trunks limed white against ant attacks, like thoroughbreds' fetlocks.



R Matzo/Explorer

Armerina, site of famed Roman mosaics.

THERE are water tanks in every garden, and gnarled olives, carefully pruned; though I could never quite learn to like the prickly pears that grow, lobe upon lobe, very well in this island's dry heat. They looked like a crowd of faces, smoothed dumb and blind. But their grim and tasteless fruit, with bread, fed poor Sicilians for years, while their roots broke up lava beds, allowing farmers to plant almond trees that yielded in turn to slender-rooted crops.

Our free days were taken up with excursions — to a midnight Mass in Gangi, to the great Norman cathedral of Monreale or the unrivaled Roman mosaics of Piazza Armerina. We would picnic under some gnarled old holm oak or in a eucalyptus glade when the weather was finer; in a café commandeered for the group when it hailed or snowed.

Most of us were weekend ramblers, with grown-up children. On the first day, in reasonable weather, we trekked 18 miles over rough ground, and more than half decided to call it a day at lunch. But this was the longest of the four major hikes that week, interspersed with three rest days; it was sheer bad luck that the weather turned against us later on.

SNOW AND FOG One morning the party divides. Some ride in the minibus freshly fitted with snow chains, some walk along the road; four of us go, leaping through a treescape veiled and bewitched by the firmest snow I have ever seen. We see stags, mistletoe and twisted oaks, but at length a blanketing fog descends, and we arrive at the hotel in weather that — but for the doughty euphorbia, (or spurge) poking through the snow — skiers would call a whiteout.

The unseasonable weather proves the wisdom of walking in a group. The route has been chosen to provide scenery and hotels at proper intervals. If anything excites the long-distance hiker more than wildflowers or birds or spectacular scenery, it is the prospect of something like Carmelina's hearty picnics. Tim carried a mobile telephone for emergencies (hidden, to thwart workaholics), as well as water and candy and guides to the island's flora and fauna.

On our own, none of us would have moved an inch. Benighted in some lonely hotel in the interior I would have moldered until my week was out, or fled to the coast and abandoned all thought of walking. Even in good weather I could never have ventured so far off the beaten track. Tim knew the route, even in snow and fog. So the walking was always good. And when the sun came out at last, we saw the orchids and the carpets of asphodels and a huge, wild peony, and — through a gap in the hills ahead — the sea, blue and Homeric, just as we had imagined it.

Jason Goodwin, the author of "On Foot to the Golden Horn" (Holt), wrote this for The New York Times.

Balancing the Old And New in Prague

Including a Touch of Disney

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

PRAGUE — Seven years into a tourist boom, Prague is no longer the hidden jewel of Central Europe. But, even with the crowds, hawkers and pickpockets, jewel it still is. And more scrubbed than it used to be. Palaces are painted, statues patched with loving care, courtyards and passageways swept to a sparkle. Some of the renovation efforts that have gone a bit far — a lollipop-pink facade here, sunflower-yellow trim there — suggest a touch of Disney.

The Culture Ministry has kept fairly strict guidelines for the restoration of the statues that have begun to crumble from neglect, pollution and, sadly, the vandalism of tourists. It is not unusual to see men in overalls — bucket and spatula in hand — fixing chins, noses and toes on weathered sandstone sculptures.

With the tourists have come all the trappings of Western consumerism. Fast-food signs jostle for prominence among the 19th-century buildings of Wenceslas Square. But here, too, there is discussion about how to restore a semblance of past grandeur. The square, where vast demonstrations in 1989 helped end Communist rule, can be harrowing for the unsuspecting. Pickpockets are common, and taxi stands are manned by drivers who frequently gouge passengers. At night, prostitutes abound. There are moves afoot to close the square to most cars, plant trees and encourage cafés.

RUDOLF'S TREASURES Many of the paintings, sculptures and gold that were at the heart of the collection of Emperor Rudolf II, and made especially in Prague for the great art patron, will be on display at an exhibition titled "Rudolf II and Prague." The pieces, including precious items of high craftsmanship, such as the table sundial by the creator of astronomical instruments, Erasmus Habermel, will be hung in the splendid settings of Prague Castle and the Riding Hall of the Wallenstein Palace.

Rudolf, who died in 1612, was a patron of music, too, so period compositions will be performed at small concerts around the castle on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. (8 P.M. Sundays) from June 1 to Sept. 2. Tickets: $7.70; $11.50 for a family ticket, calculated at 26 Czech crowns to the dollar.

Another grand opening for Prague this season, after a three-year face-lift, is the Municipal House (Obecni Dum). Its Art Nouveau restaurant, salons and halls — including the magnificent Smetana Hall and the Lord Mayor's Salon, with murals by Alphonse Mucha showing Czech historical and allegorical figures — now look much as they did in 1912. Even the smallest details: light fixtures, grillwork, wall tiles, are gems of the period. Open 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

The Czechs are abuzz about the Oscar for the best foreign language film that "Kolya," directed by Jan Sverak, won this year. The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, 75 miles west of Prague, where "Kolya" was shown before its international acclaim, runs from July 4 to 12. A special East of West section will show old films from the former Soviet bloc. Tickets, $1.50, are available only at the Hotel Thermal in Karlovy Vary, the festival headquarters. Buses leave hourly from the main bus terminal in Prague for the two-hour ride to Karlovy Vary. For program details, call (42-2) 24235412. The Prague State Opera, 4 Wilsonova, performs most nights through June, with a ballet season in July and a Verdi Festival in August. Rossini's "Italiana in Algeri," Verdi's "Nabucco" and Donizetti's "Elisir d'Amore" are among the offerings through June. Tickets, $7.70 to $24, can be booked by phone 24227832 or fax 21612126.

The National Museum, the imposing neo-Renaissance structure with a gilded dome at the top of Wenceslas Square, is an expression of Bohemian traditions and dreams. The grand interior of the building, completed in 1890, is brightened by a vast skylight and its three floors are studded with cream marble pillars, ornate banisters and globular light fixtures. Its chief attraction is the sculptural pantheon of 60 national heroes gazing down from the staircase and plinths. An exhibit from June through August focuses on 1,000 years of religious art in Bohemia and Moravia. Open daily 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.; closed the first Tuesday of every month. Admission $1.50.

Jan Sagl/Anzenberger for The New York Times

Gehry's "Fred and Ginger" building.

Prague is rich in Jewish history, and the major sights are concentrated in the old Jewish Town, not far from the Old Town Square and directly off the now fashionable Parizksa Street. The narrow streets are often thronged with tourists, but with an early start you can find yourself alone in the Jewish Cemetery. Here, more than 20,000 headstones are jammed into a tiny space, founded at the beginning of the 15th century and in use until 1787. The jumble of gray and blackened stones — chipped, tilted, sunk into the earth, some just plain, others inscribed — leaves an indelible impression. At its edge on Siroka Street is the Pinkas Synagogue built in the early 15th century. After World War II, the synagogue was turned into a memorial to the 77,297 Czechoslovak Jews killed in the Holocaust.

A FEW minutes' walk from the cemetery is the house where Kafka was born, at 5 U Radnice. It is one of the few authentic, intact Kafka memorials. A brief but full exhibit illustrates Kafka's life, family and loves. Open 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.; 75 cents.

Visitors do not go to Prague for the cuisine. The beer is wonderful; the local wines barely passable. Czech food is traditionally meat, brown sauce and red cabbage.

U Tri Zlatych Hvezd is a new wave Prague restaurant, with smiling service, rather than the dour manner frequently encountered in the city, big windows and wall murals. Tournedos served with garlicky fresh cheese and Prague ham as an appetizer are specialities. Wine by the glass is $1.50. Meal for two with a glass of wine: about $31. Malo-stranske Nam 8/263; 539660.

The service is also friendly at U Prince, which overlooks the Old Town Square. The large room, with plenty of light, is cheerfully decorated with pretty flowered tablecloths. Steak and apple strudel are the staples. In addition to the regular menu, there are special three-course menus at $6 and $9.25. Meal for two with a glass of wine, about $30.85. Staromestske Nam 29; 24213404.

The funicular up Petrin Hill takes you to Nebozizek, in Petrinky Park near Prague Castle, with wonderful views of the Old Town. The decor is modern and the cuisine international; chateaubriand ($23 for two) is a high point; other specialties are wild boar cutlets and Czech trout with almonds. Meal for two about $54. Petrinske Sady 411; 537905.

For the antithesis of Czech cuisine in an intimate West European atmosphere, U Patrona offers perhaps the best cooking in Prague. Fish is flown in daily — on a recent visit there was remarkable tuna. Specials often include veal, salads are fresh and desserts range from creme caramel to a fresh fruit platter. Dinner for two with a glass of house wine, $115. Drazickeho Nam 4; 531497.

From Rooftop to Kitchen Garden, France Is in Bloom

By Jean Rafferty

PARIS — The Gallic garden boom, which has swept the chateau set, has now come to town where fashionable Parisians have embraced nature in window boxes, on terraces and balconies, and even by renting vegetable plots originally designated as workers' allotments on the city's outskirts.

Not surprisingly, Parisian haute horticulture is often designer greenery. The young landscape artist Jasmina Belmont is working on five rooftop oases where her English-style plantings feature an abundance of roses, "always in pastels to go with the Paris sky and light," gray and yellow foliage, jasmine-scented creepers and a form of olive tree that grows in pots.

Status gardeners keep abreast of bucolic trends at a host of horticultural fairs. More than 800 garden-related events are held in France each year, but certain stars stand out. Now in its 15th year, the twice-yearly fete of the Château de Courson, south of Paris near Dourdan, attracts more than 200 exhibitors and 24,000 aficionados.

This spring's show in mid-May featured Russian lilacs, rare Chinese peonies and Siberian iris along with edible bamboo plants that came with recipes.

GREEN IN THE CITY

As a measure of the burgeoning urban boom, L'Art du Jardin fair, held over 12 acres (about 5 hectares) of the Parc de Saint-Cloud on the western edge of Paris, expects a record 80,000 enthusiasts for the fourth annual show, which runs from Friday through Monday. Last year's caused such a traffic snarl that organizers decided to add nocturnal openings (until 10 P.M. Friday and Saturday) to spread the flow. This year, 400 exhibitors and sponsors have emphasized botanical rarities along with the latest in gardenwear and garden tools, decorative accessories and furniture. Along with the chic new forest-green and beige aprons, waistcoats and matching totes, you'll find an unusual three-headed Tasmanian fern, a rare Breton-bred baby coconut tree and a selection of 500 varieties of fuchsia.

Saint-Cloud's 30 model gardens are incubators of ideas. One intriguing design, dedicated to the wines of Anjou and Saumur, is planted with strawberries and cherries, tobacco, pines and roses in an uncanny echo of the wine-speak colors and flavors one encounters at a tasting. The fashion house Cacharel celebrates its feminine image with the winning entry of its competition for women landscapers: Sonia Laage's elongated petal-shaped plot is sculptured with generous curves and spirals of 5,000 flowers, including petunias and lilies, climbing roses and carnations.

In Olivier Riols's secret garden overflowing with wisteria, jasmine and roses for the couturier Lolita Lempicka, one follows a serpentine path to a poetic pergola of the perfume fairy.

There is, of course, an example of the ubiquitous *potager*, or kitchen garden, a trend that has spread to Parisian parks. At the Bagatelle park in the Bois de Boulogne, blowsy cabbages and feathery carrot tops of the year-old vegetable patch now compete for attention with its prize-winning roses. On the Seine in eastern Paris at the brand new Parc de Bercy, the lure is box-bordered beds of a sophisticated selection of herbs (hyssop to horseradish) along with such plantings as garlic and asparagus, fava beans and dwarf peas, gooseberries and rhubarb.

The international garden festival at Chaumont in the Loire Valley.

THE CUTTING EDGE Incorporating the cobblestone paths of the former wine warehouses with new red-brick walks, walls and structures, Bercy is a stunning example of cutting-edge French garden design and one of the 134 new Parisian gardens to open in the last few years. When it's completed this fall, a contemporary orangery and a "house of gardening" with a greenhouse, where children will be given botanical initiation courses, will share space with a trellised rose garden, a budding orchard and a vineyard.

There seems no end to potager passion. The Ministry of Culture and the National Council of Culinary Arts have launched a competition for the most remarkable kitchen gardens; the winner will be announced during the Week of Taste in October.

Summer promises more horticultural highlights. Last year 120,000 visitors trooped to the international garden festival at the Château de Chaumont in the Loire Valley. The sixth edition, from June 14 to Oct. 19, is focused on 30 landscaped settings on a water-garden theme. They will vary from a plant-filled Noah's Ark, a rice paddy and a Zen sea of sand to . . . a floating potager. At Reignac-sur-Indre between Tours and Loches, Isabelle de Beaufort's ephemeral maze, carved from a 10-acre cornfield, was such a hit last year that a new version three times larger will be embellished with maze satellites. Open from July 5 to Sept. 14, the labyrinths will be peopled by costumed actors adapting scenes from "The Wizard of Oz" and can be viewed from a 130-foot tower.

PERHAPS the most revolutionary development is that Paris park promenaders are now actually allowed to walk on the long-forbidden grass. "Lawns Liberated This Morning," trumpeted a Figaro headline on May 6. Despite the work of a commission sent to pry the secret of sturdy English grass from the British, the French lawn liberation comes with some restrictions. The happy smiling-face sign welcoming you on to the green will alternate with a sleepy head informing that you the lawn is having a rest.

Jean Rafferty is a Paris-based journalist who specializes in design and lifestyle.

هكذا من الأصل

...ancing the Old
...l New in Prague
...ling a Touch of Disney

MOVIE GUIDE

A scene from "The Lost World: Jurassic Park."

THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK
Directed by Steven Spielberg. U.S.
It isn't giant, carnivorous dinosaurs thundering through the jungle and pulling people apart like spaghetti that provide the scariest chills in "The Lost World: Jurassic Park." It is their adorable miniature relatives known as compies (Procompsognathus triassicus) who scamper through the underbrush like a gang of famished street urchins playing cute, bloodthirsty games of hide-and-seek and follow-the-leader with their prey. Nobody is more adept than Steven Spielberg, who directed this sequel to the $900 million-grossing "Jurassic Park," at teasing a movie audience by finding the grotesque in the cute and the cute in the grotesque. E.T.'s ugliness made him more plaintively lovable, but it also kept him slightly scary. "The Lost World," unlike "Jurassic Park," humanizes its monsters in a way that E.T. would understand. But the new movie's endowing of its prehistoric monsters with feelings cuts both ways. While it yields some emotional dividends, it compromises the original film's notion of an unbridgeable, mystical gap between the modern world and Earth as it existed 65 million years ago. But "The Lost World," while terrifically entertaining, is also structurally out of kilter. Shortly after the two-thirds point, the movie comes to a complete halt. And once it revs up its engines again, it never regains full power. "The Lost World" never takes itself too seriously. Yes, it can be seen as a fiendish millennial fantasy of our prehistoric past catching up with us. But it doesn't pretend to be much more than a messy, full-blooded adventure yarn with cardboard characters and a story that doesn't track.
(Stephen Holden, NYT)

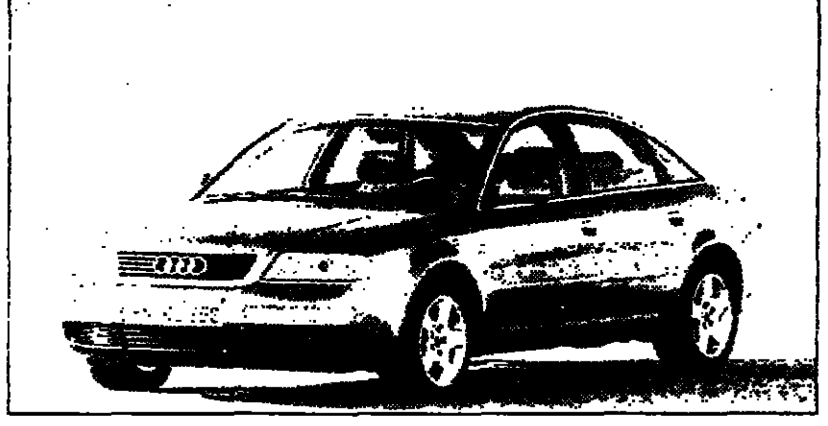
ROMY & MICHELE'S HIGH SCHOOL REUNION
Directed by David Mirkin. U.S.
Girl power drives "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" and drives it good. Like, I know "good's" an adjective, 'kay? We're talking about Romy (Mira Sorvino) and Michele (Lisa Kudrow), two adorable, Versace-adoring dingalings who are the Rodeo Drive equivalent of Beavis and Butt-head. I don't mean these gals de SoCal are dirty-minded imbeciles, but their concerns are just as low-achievement. And they high-heel it through a delicious comedy about bitchiness, one-upwomanship and those emotional scars left from high-school days. Romy's a cashier with chutzpah, lots of ideas and no boyfriend. Michele's the pretty, unemployed one — also sans lover. But no matter. For them, life's about good dance clubs, great hair and excellent nails. When they get word of their 10th high-school reunion, at Sagebrush High in Tucson, their idyllic existence is put into sobering perspective. The reunion questionnaire, which asks them to list all their "achievements," throws them into despair. What are they going to brag about to that erstwhile group of social snoots? It's time to borrow a sports car, dress to the nines and lie through their teeth. Romy and Michele learn the hard way that, no matter how low you fall in the social order, there's always someone lower and more miserable than you. The movie finds the hilarious underbelly to everything, no matter how painful the subject matter.
(Desson Howe, WP)

ONIBI
Directed by Rokuro Mochizuki. Japan.
Just out of jail, a hit man decides to go straight. This is hard to do, what with the blandishments of the gang on one hand, and the difficulties of finding a job on the other. He has a girlfriend who wants to help him but she too has a past she is trying to escape. The plot may sound familiar, but the director, Rokuro Mochizuki (whose 1987 "Skinless Night" was a memorable debut), keeps things fresh with a concerned attention to surface detail, an avoidance of gratuitous violence, highly original characterizations (Yoshiyuki Morioka wrote the script) and a beautiful performance by Yoshio Harada as the ordinary guy trying to be better and falling flat on his face.
(Donald Richie, IHT)

THE CAR COLUMN

Audi Is Making Room at the Top

By Gavin Green



AUDI, the one-time poor relation of Germany's upper-class car family, has suddenly struck it rich. Not only are sales growing strongly but, just as important, Audi's image has blossomed from struggling pretender in the BMW-Mercedes league to that of serious contender.

Once the builder of posh Volkswagens — same cars, different emblem, higher prices — Audi now makes cars that are distinctive to look at, make strong technological statements and are good to drive. Whereas Mercedes cars are still often stodgy, and BMWs are sometimes a touch vulgar, Audi has a high-tech, advanced, sporty '90s image. And although the marketing boys have done their bit to pump up the brand, the designers deserve most of the credit.

We must go back to the four-wheel-drive Quattro sports car, of 1980, to see the early signs of Audi breaking free of its overbearing parent, VW, and taking on the prestige kings. The Quattro, the first 4x4 sports car — excluding the tiny-volume British Jensen FF — won rallies and won over drivers with its amazing responsiveness and usable high performance.

It was a big jump forward. So was the subsequent Audi 100/200 sedan, loved in Europe if not in America, where it was a big jump forward only in that it appeared to suffer from a phenomenon called "unintended acceleration." No matter that Audi was subsequently exonerated. U.S. sales shriveled like a prune in the Arizona sun.

BRIEF DECELERATION

The quality of Audi's cars suffered from a bout of unintended deceleration soon after, when the company seemed to be losing its way. But over the past several years — since the promotion of Audi's former boss, Ferdinand Piech, into the top job at Volkswagen — Audi has been on a roll.

Two cars have recently consummated Audi's position at the top of the sedan class. First, there was the Audi A8, the loveliest big four-door car of recent years, and one of the best to drive. And then there was the A4, which has stolen the BMW 3-series crown in the small executive class.

Now, there is the new A6.

What a task it has! BMW and Mercedes have just launched new cars in the class, and both have been widely lauded by the press and buyers. The A6 not only competes strongly against the new 5 series and the E-class but, in many ways, edges ahead of them.

Once more, here is a distinctive Audi, quite different from all rivals. There is a typically taut-skinned body (all steel apart from the aluminum hood) which gives the impression of latent muscularity. The front and rear lights are cut at angles, the better to cap the corners of the car. The roof is gently arched, not flat, which gives the car a pleasing roundness. It also helps make for deep windows and the feeling of a light and airy cockpit. The impression is of a handsome, efficient car, with the attractive stark sculpturing that epitomizes the best German industrial design.

As with the outside design, there is an attractive efficiency and harmony about the cockpit. There is also a tremendous thoughtfulness about the siting of the controls. The quality of the materials — the plastics, the cloth, the leather — is also superb. Overall, this is the best driving environment in motoring. And the trunk is big and square, and very practical.

Unlike the new BMW and Mercedes, the A6 has front-wheel drive. One of the upshots is that the steering lacks the linearity and fluidity of its best rear-drive rivals. The car doesn't quite turn and handle and grip with the same flawless magic as Germany's best, partly a result of shared suspension components with the mass-made VW Passat. Nor is the Audi's V6 engine as refined or as gutsy as the six-cylinder engines from Mercedes or BMW. Under the skin, the Audi's common VW roots do occasionally reveal themselves

PERHAPS Audi still trails its two big-name rivals in the depth of quality of the major mechanicals, such as engines and suspension. Often the driving experience is not quite as rich, either. Instead, Audi compensates by offering more style, more "new wave" engineering and more attractive cabins. This is neither a better approach, nor a worse one. It is merely different. It is also clearly an approach that many customers like.

• Audi A6. About $45,000. 2.8 V6 engine, 30-valves, 2771cc, 193 BHP at 6,000 rpm. Front-wheel drive, five-speed manual gearbox (five-speed Tiptronic automatic transmission optional). Maximum speed: 225 kph (140 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 9.3 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 10.2 liters/100km.

Next: The Chrysler Voyager

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine

RECORDINGS

KEITH JARRETT "La Scala" (ECM): Keith Jarrett was having lunch on the sunny terrace of a major jazz festival's hotel headquarters last summer. Cross-table conversation between musical people was animated and friendly. Walking through on his way from his room to a sound check, a smiling Herbie Hancock stopped to say hello to people he knew at one table after another. Diners stood up to chat with him. With Jarrett, who remained seated, however, he had to bow down to be heard. Apart from evidence of that same sort of insensitivity, Jarrett's recording of an improvised solo concert at La Scala in Milan is a masterpiece.

BERNARD PURDIE "Soul to Jazz" (Act): Act, a "we try harder" independent small German label, presents exciting performances of an intelligently sequenced wide range of material by the ace studio drummer "Pretty" Purdie leading the fine German WDR big band. From "Sidewinder" to "When a Man Loves a Woman." Guest solos by the Brecker Brothers and the late Eddie Harris.

GARLAND JEFFREYS "Wildlife Dictionary" (BMG): People ask, "Whatever happened to Garland Jeffreys?" He's still happening, that's what, better than ever. His voice, tunes and lyrics over an often reggae shaded rock beat trip the light fantastic. "Afrodiziak" is a great name for a love song.

DOC CHEATHAM & NICHOLAS PAYTON (Verve): There are 68 years between these two trumpeters, but if you had not been warned you'd never know it. Cheatham, 91, and Payton, 23, affirm the continuity of the jazz spectrum together. It's not like one is playing "young" or the other is trying to be "experienced" — it all just fits. "Jada," "Stardust," "Black and Blue"...

Mike Zwerin/IHT

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

KREMS
Kunsthalle, tel: (43) 2732-82669, closed Mondays. To Aug. 24: "Arnulf Rainer: Abgrundtiefe, Perspektiefe." 50 years of works by the Austrian artist (born 1929), including hallucinatory drawings created when he was experimenting with LSD in the 1960s, overpainted photographs and works in which religious motifs resurface.

BELGIUM

BRUSSELS
Musee d'Art Ancien, tel: (2) 508-3211, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To July 27: "Paul Delvaux, 1897-1994." Paintings and works on paper by a leading member of the Belgian Surrealist movement.

BRITAIN

EDINBURGH
Royal Museum of Scotland, tel: (131) 225-7534, open daily. To Oct. 1: "Shibata Zeshin: Masterpieces of Japanese Lacquer from the Khalili Collection." The works of the 19th-century lacquer craftsman have been sought by Western connoisseurs since the Meiji era in the turn of the century. Writing boxes, sake cups, inros and decorative panels are on show.

LEEDS
The Henry Moore Institute, tel: (0113) 234-3158, open daily. To Aug. 24: "Robert Morris: Recent Felt Pieces and Drawings." A selection of 15 large felt works by the American Minimalist artist (born 1931).

LONDON
British Museum, tel: (171) 323-8525, open daily. To July 20: "Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt." An exhibition of painted portraits found attached to the mummified bodies of ancient Egypt. Painted at the time of the Roman colonization, most of the portraits have been excavated in the Fayum area.
Museum of London, tel: (171) 600-3699, closed Mondays. To Nov. 23: "In Royal Fashion: The Clothes of Princess Charlotte of Wales and Queen Victoria, 1796-1901." Dresses and accessories of two royal cousins (Princess Charlotte died in her early 20s, Queen Victoria reigned for more than 60 years) that testify to their lives and roles as fashion icons in the media of the day. The exhibition includes wedding dresses, coronation robes, blouses, bonnets, shawls and shoes.
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 494-5615, open daily. Continuing/ To June 8: "The Berlin of George Grosz: Drawings, Watercolors and Prints, 1912-1930."

DENMARK

HUMLEBAEK
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, tel: 42-19-07-19, open daily. To Sept. 7: "Sunshine & Noir: Art in Los Angeles, 1960-1997." Fifty artists exhibit more than 200 paintings, installations and videos documenting the evolution of art forms from Sam Francis, Ed Kienholz and David Hockney in the early 1960s to the international breakthrough in the 1990s with Mike Kelley and Charles Ray. The exhibition will travel to Germany, Italy and Los Angeles.

From top: Marie-Berthe Aurenche with husband Max Ernst, Lee Miller, Man Ray's assistant and mistress, and the photographer, in a Surrealism show in Paris.

FRANCE

BORDEAUX
Musee des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux, tel: 05-56-10-17-18, closed Tuesdays. To Aug. 29: "Rosa Bonheur, 1822-1899." After she was allowed by the authorities to wear men's clothes, Rosa Bonheur was able to visit markets, slaughterhouses and fairs and study the animals she would later depict in her works. The exhibition brings together 64 paintings, 49 drawings and watercolors and 9 sculptures and will travel to Barbizon, near Paris and New York.

PARIS
Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: 01-44-78-12-33, closed Tuesdays. To Sept. 29: "Fernand Leger." Highlighting the artist's affinity with architecture, his work for the ballet, cinema and literature, and his strong political commitment, the exhibition features 220 paintings and drawings by the French artist (1881-1955). The exhibition will travel to Madrid and New York.
Pavilion des Arts, tel: 01-42-33-82-50, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To June 18: "Le Surrealisme et l'Amour." 150 paintings, sculptures, objects, drawings, collages and photographs by Breton, Dali, Duchamp, Ernst, Alberto Giacometti, Magritte, Miro, Picabia and other members of the Surrealist movement. Also features books, pamphlets and magazines.

HONG KONG

HONG KONG
Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, tel: 2573-9553. World premiere of "The Last Emperor," a ballet based on the life of Pu Yi, the last Manchu Emperor, produced for the Hong Kong Ballet by choreographer Wayne Eagling. June 5-8.

IRELAND

DUBLIN
The Irish Museum of Modern Art, tel: (1) 671-8666, closed Mondays. To June 4: "Joseph Kosuth: New Installation and Survey, 1965-1997." Installations by the American Conceptual artist (born 1945) who was influenced by Ludwig Wittgenstein's linguistic and epistemological theories.

ITALY

FLORENCE
Palazzo Medici Riccardi, tel: (55) 27601, closed Wednesdays. To early July: "Modernismo in Portogallo." Works by Portuguese artists of the first 30 years of this century, who were closely associated with the literary circles of their time, including poet Fernando Pessoa.

GENOA
Palazzo Ducale, tel: (010) 562-440, closed Mondays. To July 13: "Van Dyck in Genoa." Portraits commissioned by the Genovese oligarchs, such as the Grimaldis, the Spinolas and the Dorias, while the Flemish portraitist (1599-1641) was in Genoa in the 1620s.

SPAIN

MADRID
Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, tel: (1) 420-39-44, closed Mondays. To Sept. 14: "George Grosz: The Berlin Years." The German satirist (1893-1959) translated political activism into art before he fled Nazi Germany for America in 1933. Features paintings, works on paper and a selection of pamphlets, books and photographs.

SWITZERLAND

BASEL
Kunstmuseum, tel: (61) 271-0445, closed Mondays, May 1. Continuing/To Aug. 24: "Durer, Holbein, Grunewald: Old Master Drawings of the German Renaissance from Berlin and Basel." An insight into German draftsmanship of the 15th and 16th centuries. The exhibition brings togther 180 works by Durer (1471-1528), Hans Holbein the Younger (1497-1543) and Mathias Grunewald (1475-1528).

LUGANO
Museo d'Arte Moderna, tel: (91) 994-4370, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To June 22: "Georges Rouault, 1871-1958: Retrospective." More than 120 works by the French Catholic painter.

UNITED STATES

BOSTON
Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (617) 267-93-00, open daily. To July 20: *Tales from the Land of Dragons: 1000 Years of Chinese Painting.*" More than 150 handscrolls, hanging scrolls and album leaves from the Tang (618-906), Song (960-1279), and Yuan (1279-1368) dynasties that embody Chinese history and legends.

HOUSTON
Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (713) 639-7300, closed Mondays. To July 13: "Matisse, Picasso and Friends: Masterworks on Paper From the Cone Collection." Advised by Gertrude Stein, these pioneering collectors assembled Post-Impressionist and modernist paintings, sculpture, and works on paper by artists of the first half of the century.

NEW YORK
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9480, closed Wednesdays. Continuing/ To Sept. 2: "Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life." A survey of 20th-century still life that demonstrates how this genre can be developed.

CLOSING SOON

June 1: "Empire of the Sultans: Ottoman Art from the Collection of Nassar D. Khalili." **The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.**
June 1: "William Turner: A Retrospective." **Bank Austria Kunstforum, Vienna.**
June 1: "Jasper Johns: Father of Pop Art in Cologne." **Museum Ludwig, Cologne.**
June 1: "Giovanni Giacometti." **Musee des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne.**

BOOKS

THE COURAGE TO STAND ALONE: Letters From Prison and Other Writings

By Wei Jingsheng. Edited and translated by Kristina M. Torgeson. Illustrated. 286 pages. $23.95. Viking.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

IN July 1987, more than eight years after his arrest and imprisonment, Wei Jingsheng, China's most famous political dissident, wrote a letter to his country's most powerful leader, Deng Xiaoping, that is a remarkable document. After all those years in jail, under constant pressure to yield to the "re-education" that is the aim of China's prison system, Wei might understandably have attempted to flatter the man who had the literal power to let him go or keep him in prison. But the letter shows that Wei is not the kind of person to beg for favors.

"You might not be able to remember a person you wronged, but it isn't easy for me to forget the one who wronged me," Wei begins. He recalls that Deng, twice purged and twice rehabilitated in his own turbulent career, had himself been "accused of unwarranted charges but strangely does not hesitate to use "unwarranted charges to blatantly slander and persecute others."

"Your weakness," Wei says, "is that you have great ambition, but you're untalented and small-minded."

The statement and its style are typical of Wei, who has been viewed as China's leading imprisoned dissident since he was arrested in 1979. He has spent all but six months of the 18 intervening years in various detention centers, prisons and labor camps, much of the time in solitary confinement or surrounded by "trustees" assigned to make him miserable.

Now Wei's letters to Deng, who died in February, to other Chinese leaders and to members of his family, along with the key documents from his pre-prison period, have been published in an important and aptly titled book, "The Courage to Stand Alone."

Edited and translated by Kristina M. Torgeson, the book is probably the most impressive dissenting document to emerge from China since the Communist revolution of 1949. It is a work that promises to take its place among the classics of the 20th-century literature of dissent, alongside the writings of figures like Vaclav Havel, Vladimir Bukovsky and Adam Michnik.

It is a remarkable testament, a political and cultural event. Wei would be important as a symbol of China's continuing human rights violations even if he were not an impressive thinker or a particularly courageous man. But "The Courage to Stand Alone" shows him to be not just a victimized brave man but a thoughtful and intelligent one as well.

The main feature of his writing is not eloquence or passion but rather calmness and precision. His letters and essays are marked by a steadfast appeal to a sort of Lockean rationality spiced here and there by bursts of anger and sarcasm against the Chinese leaders who, in Wei's opinion, refused to get straight the elementary distinction between truth and power.

"I've long known that you are precisely the kind of idiot to do something foolish like this," Wei writes to Deng after the massacre of student demonstrators in Beijing in 1989, "just as you've long known that I am precisely the kind of idiot who will remain stubborn to the end and take blows with his head up."

Another reason is that the book comes along at a time when world attention has focused ever more on China as, arguably, the world's worst violator of human rights. If there is a consistent theme demonstrated by Wei's collected writings, it is the primacy of the rule of law and China's cynical use of law to justify repression. Liu Qing, a former democracy advocate in China who now lives in New York City, has spoken of "the infinite flexibility of the dictatorship of the proletariat." Wei, in one of the essays in "The Courage to Stand Alone," similarly speaks of law in China as "merely a 'legal weapon' that anyone in power can wield against his enemies."

That too was the main idea of one of the most remarkable of the essays in "The Courage to Stand Alone," the statement that Wei made in his own defense at his first trial, in 1979. By that time Wei was generally recognized as the intellectual leader of the short-lived Democracy Wall movement.

WEI was the editor of Explorations, one of the many such magazines published in China at the time. He was also the author of what became the movement's most important statement, an article called "The Fifth Modernization: Democracy," referring to the official call for China to achieve the "Four Modernizations" in agriculture, industry, science and technology, and defense.

But Wei was also the author of another article, "Do We Want Democracy or New Autocracy?," which criticized Deng by name. Within days of its publication, he was arrested and put on trial. His defense statement dismantled the prosecution's case by demonstrating that while his activities were all legal, the government's prosecution of him was against the law.

Richard Bernstein is on the staff of The New York Times.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

NEW York's most prestigious event, the Reisinger Knockout Team Championship, has been declining steadily for many years. Thirty years ago, 74 teams were entered, and the winning squad included three world-famous players: Oswald Jacoby, John Crawford and Tobias Stone.

This time, only 14 teams competed, and some of the best players in the metropolitan area were missing from the ranks.

The diagramed deal, on which both teams reached six spades, played a vital role in the semifinal victory over the top-seeded team by a group led by Lapt Chan of Forest Hills, Queens. He was the declarer after a transfer auction, and the reader should cover the East-West cards and plan the play

NORTH
♠ A 9 7 6 2
♡ A 3
♢ A Q 6 5
♣ 8 3

WEST
♠ J 10 8 4
♡ J 10 9
♢ K 10 9 8
♣ 9 6

EAST
♠ 5
♡ 8 7 6 4
♢ J 3
♣ Q J 10 7 4 2

SOUTH (D)
♠ K Q 3
♡ K Q 5 2
♢ 7 4 2
♣ A K 5

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 N.T.	Pass	2 ♡	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♢	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♡	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♢	Pass
5 ♡	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the heart jack.

after an opening heart lead. In practice, South won with the ace in dummy and cashed the king and queen of spades. Finding the bad split, he finessed the diamond queen and cashed the ace. Then he cashed the king-queen of hearts, throwing a diamond from the dummy, and reached the position shown at right.

The heart five was led, and West erred by throwing a diamond. South ruffed in dummy, cashed his club winners, and played his last club. This gave him two trump tricks and his slam, for if West ruffed the diamond loser could be discarded.

If West had discarded a club in the diagramed position, he would have beaten the slam and, as it turned out, won the match.

But South could have improved his plan and succeeded against any defense. If he draws two rounds of trumps with the king and ace, preserving the queen as an entry, he can then cash side-suit winners, ending in his hand, and score all dummy's trumps.

NORTH
♠ A 9 7
♡ —
♢ 6
♣ 8 3

WEST
♠ J 10
♡ —
♢ K 10
♣ 9 6

EAST
♠ —
♡ 8
♢ —
♣ Q J 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ 3
♡ 5
♢ 7
♣ A K 5

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RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

BELGIUM

Brussels, Avenue Louise 346
Hôtel Max Hallet, attributed to Victor Horta

Carriage entrance, period staircase, marvellous entrance hall, reception rooms, winter garden, basement and two-car garage. Ground surface: 6a 90ca - 1181 sq.m habitable.
All in very grand style and well maintained
Mixed zone usable for habitation / offices
Listed building (A.R. 16/10/1975)
Vacant occupation
Authorization to visit may be obtained from the notaries.

Final auction: **Friday, June 20th 1997 at 2.30 pm,** in room III -
Ventes par Notaires, Brussels, Rue de la Montagne 30 - 32
The bid stands at: 54 millions BEF
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THE INTERMARKET Starts on Page 9

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Herald International Tribune

BUSINESS/FINANCE

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Music companies are profiting from new ethnically styled artists such as Joey Boy, left, and Modern Dog.

Ethnic Music Is Blowing Its Horn

By Richard Covington
Special to the Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Amelina, the 18-year-old self-proclaimed "queen of dangdut," has sold more than 500,000 records in Malaysia, far more than the Spice Girls, the most popular Western group across Asia, and has made the Warner label one of the most successful in the country.

Yet as popular as Amelina and dangdut are in Malaysia and Indonesia, where this insistently percussive dance music originated, only a handful of fans outside these two markets have caught the dangdut fever. So far.

Major record labels such as Warner, BMG, Universal-MCA and Singapore-based Pony Canyon have all signed dangdut acts and are betting that this form of Indonesian "dirty dancing" is infectious enough to spread across dance floors from Hong Kong to London.

Dangdut, Islamic religious songs, Australian aboriginal music, Bengali baul and Anglo-Indian bhangra are among traditional Asian musical styles gaining widespread audiences within the region and aiming to cross over into Europe and the United States.

A rising number of Western bands are experimenting with traditional Asian musical sources, following the lead of Fundamental, which drew on devotional baul melodies in its latest release, and Enigma, which freely lifted folk tunes from the Amis, Taiwan's principal indigenous ethnic tribe.

World-music festivals such as Womad in San Francisco and its sister festival to be held in Britain this July draw tens of thousands of fans hungry for alternatives to mass-market hits packaged in London, New York and Los Angeles.

"Music in the West is becoming stale and needs input from elsewhere," said Andy Grainge, director of business administration for Sony Music (Asia) Inc. Mr. Grainge was among several thousand record executives, producers and performers who gathered in Hong Kong this month for Midem Asia, an annual market and festival promoting music in the region.

Sony, Warner/ Chappell, BMG Entertainment, EMI Group PLC and other music publishers are eagerly seeking out Asian songwriters to generate local repertoire, some of it derived from traditional musical styles.

Revenue in Asia accounts for $9 billion, or around 23 percent, of the world's $39.8 billion in annual sales of recorded music, according to figures compiled by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, a London-based organization that tracks global record sales.

In the 12 countries of the Asian region, domestically produced music far outstrips international repertoire in popularity, with 70 percent of sales generated by local artists, according to industry figures.

The countries to watch for popularizing traditional music styles are Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines, according to Xavier Roy, chief executive of the Paris-based Reed Midem Organization, the trade-fair group that stages music markets in Hong Kong, Cannes and Miami.

"Mixed with modern styles, these old-fashioned forms are undergoing a revival among the generation from 15 to 24 years old and are being disseminated across the Internet to broader audiences in the West," Mr. Roy said.

Warner/ Chappell publishing is currently negotiating with the film director Wayne Wang for the use of songs that blend traditional Chinese folk melodies with ambient Western styles as part of the soundtrack for Mr. Wang's upcoming film "Chinese Box," which stars Jeremy Irons and Gong Li.

"Film soundtracks are vitally important for introducing indigenous music to wider audiences," said Victor Coppersmith-Heaven, a Britain-based music producer specializing in

See ETHNIC, Page 17

Brawl in Bonn Clouds Fate of Euro

Waigel Rejects Call to Resign For Proposing Gold Strategy

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Finance Minister Theo Waigel rejected calls Thursday to resign and attempted to assure financial markets that Europe's monetary union would go ahead on schedule after a sudden and bitter standoff between the government and the Bundesbank — and between the nation's two most powerful men, Helmut Kohl and Hans Tietmeyer.

But the dispute, over deploying the gold reserves of Mr. Tietmeyer's Bundesbank, appeared to have thrown Europe's single-currency project into the deepest doubt yet, according to analysts and commentators across Europe, even as it etched new divisions between the prospective members of monetary union.

The Bundesbank on Wednesday stridently rejected the government's plans to revalue Germany's gold reserves to

NEWS ANALYSIS

meet requirements for monetary union, but the government has vowed to press on with the move.

"The German Bundesbank has thrown up a solid and perhaps impenetrable roadblock on the route to a European single currency," said David Marsh, a specialist on the Bundesbank at Robert Fleming Securities in London. "The defiant message last night from the German central bank was that 'They shall not pass.' "

Mr. Waigel, the architect of the disputed gold revaluation, rejected calls from the opposition in Parliament for his resignation.

Mr. Waigel, backed by Mr. Kohl, defied the Bundesbank's warnings over the gold plan and announced he would go ahead and seek a transfer of funds into the government's accounts after the revaluation.

The revaluation requires a change in German law, and Mr. Waigel is expected to submit draft legislation to Parliament as soon as next Thursday.

In an unusually forceful statement, the Bundesbank late Wednesday warned that a revaluation of the gold reserves, accompanied by a transfer of the book profits into the government's accounts, risked "a loss in trust in the stability of the future European currency." The Bundesbank also warned that the action violated the spirit of the Maastricht treaty on European union and infringed on the independence of the Bundesbank.

"The single European currency suffered a near-fatal blow last night when Germany's Bundesbank went to war with the Kohl government over the desperate race to qualify for the euro this year," the British daily The Guardian wrote.

Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy, who has orchestrated his government's campaign to qualify for a single currency with the first wave of members in 1999, said, "We are no longer the black sheep of Europe."

No other institution could undermine the Bonn government's credibility as much as the Bundesbank, which has lobbied for years against one-time accounting methods to fill budget gaps. Otmar Issing, the Bundesbank's chief economist, called Mr. Waigel's plan "an extreme form of creative accounting" that went further than any such measures proposed by other countries.

Moving to sustain trust in the project, Yves Thibault de Silguy, the economics commissioner of the European Union, said Germany could overcome its internal political rift and meet the single-currency benchmarks.

"For me there is no risk with monetary union," he said. "I am confident that the German government will be ready on time."

Doubts over the project loom because an open conflict between the government and the Bundesbank threatens to diminish acceptance of monetary union among the German population, political and economic analysts said.

Because currency union has never had much support among ordinary Germans, any further weakening of public

See GERMANY, Page 15

Deadlock on Currency Market: Can Europe's Vision Survive?

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The currency markets found themselves forced Thursday to choose between two opposing versions of Europe's monetary future.

"The prospects for a wide EMU and for no EMU at all are both rising at the same time," said Jim O'Neill, chief currency strategist for Goldman Sachs.

What has vanished, analysts and traders say, is the middle ground, or any hope of a smooth transition to Europe's planned single currency, the euro.

They pinned the blame for the hardening of attitudes on the rebuke delivered by French voters to their government this week and the Bundesbank's blunt rejection Wednesday of its government's attempts to fudge Germany's EMU entrance exam by revaluing the nation's gold reserves.

The question is: What do those developments presage? For David Bloom, a currency economist at HSBC Markets, the mood of Thursday's markets was a carbon copy of the atmosphere in his firm's trading room Wednesday night after the news of the Bundesbank's opposition to its government's plans came out. "Everyone was screaming," he said. "But half of them were screaming 'Buy the Deutsche mark!' and half of them were screaming 'Sell the Deutsche mark!' "

Fresh doubts over the shape of Europe's planned economic and monetary union fueled strong speculation but little actual price movement Thursday, reflecting what traders say is a potentially volatile new polarization of sentiment within the currency markets.

Analysts and traders, at pains to explain the fact that the dollar barely budged against the mark in the face of some of the most dramatic developments in months, insisted that the markets had not slept through the news of the past few days. Instead, they said the seeming inactivity was due to a clash between convinced buyers of the mark and convinced sellers of the currency, whose trades canceled each other out.

For the markets, a wider EMU includes countries with histories of higher inflation such as Italy and therefore is a weaker euro. No EMU at all, on the other hand, is seen as bullish for the mark and the currencies of some other major European countries, which would get a freer hand to pursue strict monetary policies.

"Right now the market is trading on political comments, not hard data, and one comment can cancel out another in a matter of minutes," said Jesper Dannesboe, analyst at ABN-AMRO.

Those who return to a focus on the fundamentals that supposedly underpin a currency's value risk instant irrelevance. Some analysts have been so unnerved by the failure of the dollar to draw strength from its traditional role as a safe-haven currency that they have come up with a surprising answer: Even a soft euro could be a bouncy, upwardly mobile currency.

The German government's preference for balancing its books with smoke and mirrors, rather than spending cuts and tax rises, could indicate that the era of government belt-tightening has ended, some analysts said.

If true, that would mean that interest rates on European bonds could be heading up, making Europe's currencies more attractive to hold. That argument could help to tip the balance in favor of the European currencies.

Thinking Ahead /Commentary

French Politicians Aim at False Target

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Despite the remarkable economic success of America, and to a considerable extent of Britain, in the 1990s, the evils of "Anglo-Saxon capitalism" are still a favorite target of French politicians, especially at election time.

Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, who may soon be France's prime minister after his party fared surprisingly well in the first round of parliamentary elections Sunday, has made an assault on the "socially ferocious" Anglo-Saxon economic model a prominent feature of his campaign.

Elsewhere in Europe, the surge in support for the French Socialists has been widely interpreted as a rebuff of American-style free-market policies in favor of the more "humane" European welfare state.

But Anglo-Saxon capitalism is not among the choices currently on offer to French voters, nor has it ever been. It has certainly not been espoused by the embattled center-right government coalition led by Prime Minister Alain Juppe, who has now been forced to resign.

If it had been, France's shocking 12.8 percent unemployment rate — a main issue in the current campaign — would probably be considerably lower. Whatever the other defects of Anglo-Saxon capitalism, it creates more jobs than the European welfare state.

The unfortunate achievement of Mr. Juppe and his boss, President Jacques Chirac, has been to discredit economic liberalism without ever practicing it. Their stumbling attempts at economic reform have attracted the usual odium attached to free-market policies in France without securing any of the benefits, in terms of more jobs and faster growth.

On the contrary, Mr. Chirac's failure both to fulfill his campaign pledge of two years ago to reduce unemployment and to articulate the need for more thoroughgoing reforms has left the way open for the left to claim, by default, that the only alternative is a return to socialist policies.

Neither Mr. Chirac nor his allies have dared suggest that there is another, as yet untried, alternative — real economic liberalism.

That need not mean embracing every aspect of the dreaded Anglo-Saxon model. It would, however, mean seriously attacking government spending, which now accounts for nearly 55 percent of French gross domestic product, the highest among the major industrial countries, and unblocking the labor market.

Sadly, that kind of solution will be even less attainable after the second round of the elections Sunday.

There seems to be no chance of a government ready to take the necessary action to tackle structural unemployment, which includes slashing the social-security costs associated with hiring new employees, making it easier to fire old ones and reducing the minimum wage. Until such steps are taken, French employers will continue to prefer to invest in machines rather than people.

Unfortunately, that approach smacks of the American "hire and fire" mentality that the French find so brutal — even though it has helped to reduce U.S. unemployment to levels that France can only dream of. It would be better for France if Mr. Jospin and others stopped distorting Anglo-Saxon capitalism. It is simply untrue that America has become a nation of poorly paid hamburger-flippers, as so many Europeans seem to think.

Among the striking features of today's U.S. economy are how many well-paid jobs it is creating and the way people are bettering themselves by working up from hamburger-flipping. It would make more sense to learn from it than to caricature it.

Air France Sees Profit After 7 Years of Losses

Cost-Cutting and State Aid Lift Earnings

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Air France said Thursday it would post a profit of 211 million francs ($36.7 million) for the year through March, ending seven years of losses.

Although the profit was relatively slim, it was a dramatic turnaround from 1993, when the state-owned airline lost a record 8 billion francs. Air France attributed the profit to a 10 percent increase in passenger and baggage revenue and to government aid, which lowered the company's finance costs.

Profit for the entire Air France group, which includes travel and catering services, was 394 million francs, the company said. Airline operations account for 90 percent of its sales.

But the former domestic carrier, Air Inter, which now forms Air France's European division, reported a loss of 488 million francs. It reports its results separately because its merger with Air France does not take effect until September.

Denis Olivennes, Air France's deputy chairman, said the financial results indicated that the economic foundations of the airline had been restored but that modernization had yet to be fully accomplished.

Cost-cutting, combined with 20 billion francs in government recapitalization and a healthy increase in traffic — with a 13.3 percent increase in revenue from passenger operations — helped Air France make a profit.

Air France said it would post another profit this year but that it would be less than expected because of a pilots strike last week that forced the cancellation of many flights. Although the strike cost the company an estimated 200 million francs, the chairman, Christian Blanc, predicted Air France would make a 500 million-franc profit for the year ending in March 1998 and a 2 billion-franc profit two years later.

On Wednesday, Air France pilots threatened to resume their strike, protesting the introduction of a lower pay scale for newly hired cockpit crew. Ground staff and cabin attendants accepted the arrangement and a salary freeze as part of a restructuring plan in 1994.

Air France's takeover of the domestic carrier Air Inter, now called Air France Europe, has exacerbated the discontent of the pilots. The better-paid Air Inter crews fear they will lose their benefits. The pilots also object to the company's plan to hire 450 pilots at salaries 50 percent lower than the current minimum pay.

However, the company signed an agreement with two unions that, if adopted by all the pilots, would effectively delay the introduction of the two-tier wage system for several years.

The return to profit was a personal success for Mr. Blanc, 54, whose feat in turning around the perennial loss-maker, whose losses totaled 21.6 billion francs in seven years, has put his name on the list of potential prime ministers, according to several French publications. France will hold a second round of legislative elections Sunday, and if the center-right coalition is returned to power, Air France is expected to be privatized. A victory by the left, which has promised to halt privatizations, would leave the airline in state hands.

TENDER NOTICE

ETHIOPIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
ADDIS ABABA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

WORKS PACKAGE II
CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL BUILDING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS
PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

1.1 The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has received Loans from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in African (BADEA), and the Organization of Petroleum Export Countries Fund for Economic Development, (OPEC), in various currencies towards the cost of the Addis Ababa International Airport Development Project, Works Package II, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of these loans will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation to prequalify is issued

1.2 The ETHIOPIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY intends to prequalify contractors for the following works:
The project is located at Addis Ababa International Airport, 5 kilometers South of the city of Addis Ababa. The project principally comprises of building works, but also includes piling, the erection of structural steelworks and civil engineering works. The principal elements of the works are as follows:

- Construction of a new international passenger terminal building with a floor area of approximately 40,000 square meters.
- The supply and installation of five airbridges, baggage handling equipment, and flight information and public address systems.
- Construction of a new airside aircraft apron comprising both asphaltic concrete and pavement quality concrete pavements.
- Construction of landside access roads, pedestrian ways and car parking facilities.
- Construction of new landside water supply, fire-fighting, sewerage and storm drainage facilities.
- Miscellaneous works such as street lighting and landscaping.

1.3 Interested contractors may obtain further information and inspect prequalification documents at the following offices if additional information is required:
1. PROJECT COORDINATION OFFICE
Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority,
Addis Ababa International Airport,
P.O. Box 978, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel.: 251-1-610277 – Fax: 251-1-612535 – Tlx: 21162 CIVAIR ET
2. GIBB LTD.
Gibb House, London Road, Reading,
Berkshire RG6 1BL, England.
Tel.: 44-118-963-5000 – Fax: 44-118-935-2516
3. KUWAIT CONSULTING & INVESTMENT CO.
P.O. Box 24326, Safat 13104, Kuwait.
Tel.: 965-2424729 – Fax: 965-2424752.

1.4 Prequalification is subject to the Procurement Conditions of the Funding Agencies.

1.5 A complete set of prequalification questionnaire may be purchased by any interested applicant on the submission of a written application to the above addresses and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US Dollars FIFTY ONLY or in Birr equivalent. Requests submitted by mail should include a certified cheque in the amount and currency indicated above in favour of Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority. Please be advised that the payment of fifty dollars (U.S. $50) Shall be either in cash or by telegraphic transfer to CAA, A/C No. 402 Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), Airport Branch Addis Ababa - in this case the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed to the applicants.

1.6 The prequalification documents must be duly completed and returned to:
THE GENERAL MANAGER,
ETHIOPIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY,
ADDIS ABABA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
P.O. BOX 978,
TEL: 251-1-61-36-43
FAX: 251-1-61-25-33
TLX: 21162 CIVAIR ET

Where they must be received before 11:00 a.m. on the 11th July 1997. Documents which are received later than this time will not be considered and will be returned un-opened to the applicants.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

May 29

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.911	3.132	1.1254	0.3332	0.1137*	—	5.451*	1.3545	1.6452*	1.3855	1.3295*
Brussels	35.10	57.71	20.6445	6.112	2.0824*	18.35	—	24.905	0.3025	25.45	24.465*
Frankfurt					Closed						
London (a)	1.6397	—	2.782	9.4385	2,752.49	3.1305	57.4387	2.3112	190.1561	2.2639	235.4871
Madrid	144.142	236.148	84.69	25.064	8.549*	75.362	4.1022	101.867	124.057*	104.61	—
Milan	1,686.88	2,765.80	987.05	292.68	—	878.60	47.896	1,187.66	14.514	1,228.00	11.679
New York (b)	—	1.6403a	1.6963	5.7334	1,683.80	1.9065	35.07	1.4104	116.25	1.3804	144.285
Paris	5.751	9.422	3.379	—	0.3411*	3.0028	0.1637	4.0643	4.9497*	4.1738	3.988*
Tokyo	115.50	189.18	68.86	20.14	6.687	60.47	3.2981	81.91	—	83.73	0.8011
Toronto	1.3806	2.2634	0.8142	0.2407	0.082*	0.723	0.3935*	0.9791	1.1873*	—	0.96*
Zurich	1.4125	2.3177	0.8309	0.2459	0.084*	0.7386	4.0862*	—	1.2158*	1.023	0.9817*
1 ECU	1.1472	0.7015	1.9559	6.6889	1,937.60	2.2009	40.3795	1.6261	133.524	1.5835	165.713
1 SDR	1.3908	0.8512	2.3797	7.9988	N.Q.	2.6636	48.9637	1.9757	162.614	1.9256	208.412

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers: New York at 4 p.m. and Toronto rates at 3 p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9986	Greek drac.	272.87	Mex. peso	7.905	S. Afr. rand	4.4665
Australian $	1.3098	Hong Kong $	7.7459	N. Zealand $	1.4489	S. Kor. won	891.80
Austrian sch.	11.989	Hung. forint	182.59	Norw. krone	7.0855	Swed. krona	7.7119
Brazil real	1.074	Indian rupee	35.80	Phil. peso	26.36	Taiwan $	27.87
Chinese yuan	8.3224	Indo. rupiah	2442.0	Polish zloty	3.20	Thai baht	25.75
Czech koruna	33.06	Irish £	0.6636	Port. escudo	172.52	Turkish lira	139635.
Danish krone	6.483	Israeli shek.	3.3906	Russ ruble	5761.5	UAE dirham	3.671
Egypt. pound	3.3952	Kuw dinar	0.2995	Saudi riyal	3.7500	Venez. boliv.	483.00
Fin. markka	5.1333	Malay. ring.	2.5102	Sing. $	1.4298		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6372	1.6361	1.6350	Japanese yen	115.63	115.08	114.59
Canadian dollar	1.3755	1.3725	1.3698	Swiss franc	1.4095	1.4037	1.3986
Deutsche mark	1.6988	1.6948	1.6912				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo);

Libid-Libor Rates

May 29

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5⅝ - 5 11/16	2 15/16 - 3 1/16	⅝ - 1⅛	6⅜ - 6½	3¼ - 3½	⅜ - ½	4 - 4⅛
3-month	5 11/16 - 5 13/16	3 - 3⅛	1⅛ - 1¼	6½ - 6⅝	3½ - 3⅝	½ - ⅝	4 1/16 - 4 3/16
6-month	5⅞ - 6	3 1/16 - 3 3/16	1⅛ - 1¼	6 11/16 - 6 13/16	3½ - 3⅝	9/16 - 11/16	4⅛ - 4¼
1-year	6⅛ - 6¼	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1 3/16 - 1 5/16	6 15/16 - 7 1/16	3 11/16 - 3 13/16	11/16 - ⅞	4 5/16 - 4 7/16

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8½	8½
Federal funds	5 9/16	5½
90-day CDs dealers	5.72	5.69
180-day CP dealers	5.62	5.62
3 month Treasury bill	4.91	5.01
1-year Treasury bill	5.52	5.55
2-year Treasury bill	6.28	6.28
5-year Treasury note	6.60	6.63
7-year Treasury note	6.66	6.70
10-year Treasury note	6.75	6.78
30-year Treasury bond	6.98	7.02
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	5.01	5.01
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.47	0.46
1-month interbank	0.54	0.54
3-month interbank	0.57	0.56
6-month interbank	0.65	0.64
10-year Govt bond	2.83	2.89
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	Clsd.	3.03
1-month interbank	–	3.15
3-month interbank	–	3.20
6-month interbank	–	3.25
10-year Bond	–	5.91

Britain	Close	Prev
Bank base rate	6¼	6¼
Call money	6⅜	6⅜
1-month interbank	6⅜	6⅜
3-month interbank	6 9/16	6 9/16
6-month interbank	6¾	6¾
10-year Gilt	7.23	7.25
France		
Intervention rate	3.10	3.10
Call money	3¼	3 3/16
1-month interbank	3 5/16	3 5/16
3-month interbank	3 7/16	3 7/16
6-month interbank	3 11/16	3 11/16
10-year OAT	5.75	5.86

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	345.65	344.80	+2.00
London	345.70	343.90	+1.10
New York	345.50	345.90	+0.60

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (June.)
Source: Reuters.

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

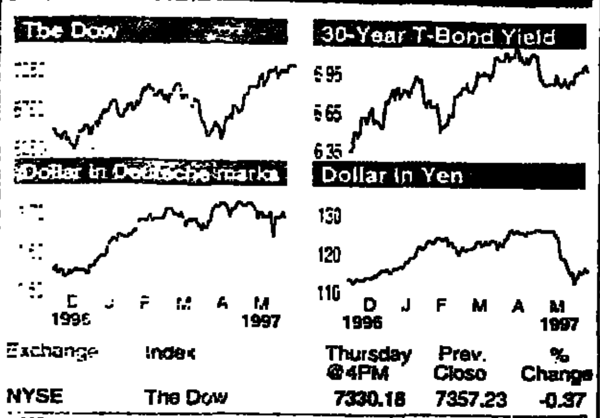
INTERNATIONAL FUNDS LISTING

Track the performance of over 1,800 international funds, every day, on the IHT site on the World Wide Web.

http://www.iht.com

Continued on Page 16

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Thursday @4PM	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	7330.18	7357.23	-0.37
NYSE	S&P 500	844.08	847.21	-0.37
NYSE	S&P 100	827.32	831.30	-0.48
NYSE	Composite	438.86	439.66	-0.18
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1403.11	1410.18	-0.50
AMEX	Market Value	603.12	600.79	+0.39
Toronto	TSE Index	6368.80	6388.80	-0.31
São Paulo	Bovespa	Closed	11300.85	-
Mexico City	Bolsa	3929.87	3898.94	+0.79
Buenos Aires	Merval	767.63	759.69	+1.05
Santiago	IPSA General	5561.65	5558.58	+0.06
Caracas	Capital General	6857.81	6894.82	-0.54

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

AMR Bids for a Northeast Shuttle

FORT WORTH, Texas (Bloomberg) — AMR Corp.'s American Airlines made a bid Thursday for the shuttle service connecting New York with Washington and Boston that now is operated by US Airways.

If successful, the move would put American in direct competition with Delta Air Lines Inc., which flies similar shuttle routes at half-hour intervals.

US Airways holds a 47 percent stake in Shuttle Inc., which owns the operation. Under its management contract to run the shuttle, US Airways has an option to buy Shuttle at fair market value or to match AMR's bid. US Airways and the lenders who control Shuttle must first determine the fair market value.

• **Novell Inc.** had a second-quarter loss of $14.6 million, after $55.4 million a year earlier; analysts had expected the networking software maker to report a substantial profit.

• **Trans World Airlines Inc.** will focus on improving its service and facilities at New York's Kennedy Airport as part of a plan to save the airline from a third bankruptcy, Gerald Gitner, TWA's chairman and chief executive, said.

• **Archer Daniels Midland Co.** agreed to purchase 45 percent of United Grain Growers in a series of transactions totaling 113 million Canadian dollars ($81.7 million).

• **Seagram Co.** disclosed that it had sold more than half of its stock in **Time Warner Inc.** for $1.39 billion. It said it would use the proceeds to pay down debt and buy back its stock.

• **ABC Inc.** named Preston Padden its president. He joins the television network less than a month after leaving News Corp., where he was head of American Sky Broadcasting. He succeeds David Westin, now president of ABC News.

• **CUC International Inc.**'s earnings for the quarter that ended April 30 rose 35 percent, to $70.5 million, as more customers used its direct marketing services.

Bloomberg, LAT, Reuters

Is AT&T Betting the Farm?

Failure to Close SBC Deal Could Leave It Rudderless

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — AT&T Corp.'s chairman, Robert Allen, has not hesitated to roll the dice in his nine years at the helm of the largest U.S. telephone company.

But even by his standards, talking about merging AT&T with SBC Communications Inc. — combining America's biggest long-distance telephone company with its biggest provider of local service — is a breathtaking gamble.

If he does not engineer a deal in the next few weeks, some analysts said, AT&T could be left with neither a strategy nor a viable leader to enact it.

Some analysts say AT&T's plan gives important advantages to its smaller partner.

That is because Mr. Allen has already made two tacit admissions, according to people familiar with the talks: that AT&T needs a local telephone partner to compete in a deregulated market and that his designated heir, John Walter, need not run the combined company.

Were Mr. Allen to call off the talks now, these people said, both AT&T and Mr. Walter would emerge as damaged goods.

Executives involved in the talks said Wednesday that AT&T and SBC still had to resolve knotty issues regarding the financial structure and management of a combined company. A merger would rank as the largest deal in history, creating an $80 billion behemoth with a stronghold in SBC's territories in California and Texas and the national reach of AT&T.

The disclosure of the talks Tuesday could further complicate the negotiations, these people said, because it spotlighted the steep legal and regulatory hurdles to such a combination.

Some analysts say a merger would be more favorable to SBC than to AT&T.

For starters, people with knowledge of the talks said, the chairman of SBC, Edward Whitacre, would probably emerge as chief executive of the combined company. That would deprive Mr. Walter of a shot at the top job, which Mr. Allen recruited him to fill only last November. Mr. Allen, 62, plans to step down as chief executive of AT&T in May 1998.

The catch is that, if the deal fell through, Mr. Allen would be left with an heir who he has implicitly conceded is not his first choice to run AT&T.

Mr. Allen has been busy grooming a new generation of leaders, including AT&T's general counsel, John D. Zeglis, and the chiefs of the company's consumer and business long-distance units, Gail McGovern and Jeffrey Weitzen. But analysts said that if Mr. Walter were to leave, AT&T would be plunged back into a distracting executive search just when it needed to focus its energies on the newly deregulated market.

The risks of an aborted deal for AT&T extend beyond the executive suite. Daniel Reingold, an analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co., said AT&T probably would not compete for local phone customers in SBC's territory while trying to engineer a merger.

That process might take two years, given that the Justice Department and other regulators would put an AT&T-SBC merger under unprecedented scrutiny. Thus, for two years SBC would effectively neutralize its biggest potential rival, while AT&T would deprive itself of access to the lucrative California market.

Executives say a merger would spur local competition in the 43 states SBC does not serve. Together, AT&T and SBC would have the capital and expertise to go head to head with the regional Bell companies, offering a bundle of local and long-distance service.

Just the prospect of a combined AT&T-SBC may be enough to drive other long-distance and local carriers into one another's arms. Analysts predict there will be other major deals involving local and long-distance companies this year.

Outlook for Earnings Weighs on Wall Street

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks fell Thursday as companies such as Nike and Southwest Airlines warned of disappointing earnings.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 27.05 points lower at 7,330.18. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fell 3.13 to 844.08, and the Nasdaq composite index declined 7.08 to 1,403.10.

Bond prices edged higher after the Labor Department reported that the number of American workers filing first-time claims for jobless benefits was unchanged last week at 322,000, a level analysts say is consistent with modest job growth.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 19/32 to 95 19/32, taking the yield down to 6.98 percent from 7.03 percent.

"We're paying very close attention to the earnings," said Guy Truicko, a money manager at Unity Management Inc. "The market's very unforgiving, as you can clearly see with Nike."

Nike shares tumbled 8¾ to 55¼ after the world's largest maker of sports shoes and apparel said its revenue and profit would not live up to analysts' expectations.

On Wednesday, Nike surged on speculation that Berkshire Hathaway's Warren Buffett was acquiring shares. Rival shoemakers declined after Nike's warning. Reebok International fell 1½ to 39¾, Fila International's American depositary receipts fell ⅞ to 42¼, and Converse slid 1 to 20¼.

Southwest Airlines fell ⅞ to 25⅞ after its chief executive, Herbert Kelleher, said the company would

U.S. STOCKS

have trouble topping its record earnings from the second quarter of 1996.

Seagram rose ¾ to 39⅞ after selling 30 million shares of Time Warner shares, more than half of its stake, for $1.39 billion, just days after the stock reached a record high. Time Warner fell.

Donna Karan International rose ¾ to 11⅞ after saying it would cut costs by trimming its U.S. work force 4 percent and reducing its annual number of runway fashion shows to lift declining profit.

Novell dropped 7/32 to 7 27/32 as the maker of networking equipment reported a second-quarter loss and said it planned to cut staff.

General Motors fell ⅞ to 56⅞ after Jack Smith, its chairman and chief executive, said the automaker would not reach its goal of lifting its share of the U.S. car market to 33 percent in 1997 because of strikes.

(Bloomberg, AP)

GERMANY: *Waigel Rebuffs Critics*

Continued from Page 13

trust raises the specter that the government will be unable to muster support for monetary union and raises new doubts about the viability of the entire project. By contrast, Germany's economic and political establishment avidly favors currency union.

"We have long thought that the one thing that could derail this train is reluctance within Germany itself," said Richard Reid, chief European economist at UBS Ltd.

By telling the Germans that the single currency could lack credibility, the Bundesbank reinforced the notion that the euro will not be as strong and inflation-free as the Deutsche mark, analysts said.

Germany's rejection of the project automatically would lead to its failure, analysts said. Because Germany is Europe's biggest economy, the Deutsche mark is considered an "anchor" currency that other European nations use as a benchmark for exchange rates and interest rates.

"There is a general election in Germany next year, and the government must ask itself if it can go ahead with a megaproject that goes against the wishes of the majority of the voters," said Guenther Thurmann, a former aide in Mr. Kohl's economics ministry and now an economist at Salomon Brothers.

The Bundesbank made clear that it wanted to thrust the issue into the German court of public opinion. Ernst Welteke, a Bundesbank council member, warned Mr. Kohl that the central bank would command more public sympathy than the politicians in the dispute.

"The last 24 hours have been a warning to anyone inclined to doubt the power of the Bundesbank's public relations skills," said Alison Cottrell, economist at PaineWebber.

Bundesbank officials often have been out several times a day giving speeches on monetary union to cultivate ties to Germans in a way that is unusual for central bankers.

Dollar Rises Amid Doubt Over Euro

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against most other major currencies Thursday amid speculation that Europe's planned single currency would be weak.

The speculation stemmed from the German government's decision to revalue its gold and foreign currency reserves — despite objections by the Bundesbank — to meet budget deficit and debt limits needed to join European monetary union.

"The news about the government's insistence on a revaluation of gold reserves made people apprehensive about the mark," said Albert Soria, head of foreign exchange at Generale Bank. "The only thing supporting the mark are jitters that EMU could be delayed or collapse."

Signs of delay in the union, which envisions a single currency known as the euro, often help the Deutsche mark because it will remain

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Europe's primary currency until the euro is introduced. Still, a delay or collapse would ultimately hurt the mark, Mr. Soria said: "People would want to avoid Europe, and the dollar would be a safe haven."

The dollar rose to 1.6963 DM in 4 P.M. trading from 1.6955 DM the day before and to 116.250 yen from 115.865 yen. The dollar was also at 1.4104 Swiss francs, down from 1.4110 francs, but at 5.7334 French francs, up from 5.7295 francs. The pound rose to $1.6403 from $1.6390.

The yen suffered after Japan reported an unexpected 0.4 percent drop in industrial production for April, quelling talk that the Bank of Japan would raise interest rates soon. Higher rates would help the yen by making bank deposits and bonds denominated in it relatively attractive.

"That number is certainly another reason to keep the yen weak," said Tom Benfer, director of foreign exchange at Bank of Montreal. "There is no chance of a rate hike soon. We don't expect one until next year."

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

The top 300 most active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
AMC	488	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMC pf	200	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ARC	84	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ASR Inv	115	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ATT Fd	96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AVIC Gp pf	168	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AdvMed	250	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AdvPhot	151	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aerosan	376	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alamco	98	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AHaagen	238	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alba	65	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alphaln	562	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amdhl	8601	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AExpl	92	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMA 85	143	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AmerPag	142	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampal	332	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampex	2665	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Andrea	149	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AppleOrr n	642	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AllTele	186	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Audvox	5183	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Autotote	1152	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Axogen un	186	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Axco	290	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BAT Ind	484	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BHC	946	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baker	88	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BarrLab s	157	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bayou	381	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BemaGold	1545	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BioR A s	282	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Blonder	183	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bogen wt	183	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BoltTch n	126	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bowarr	109	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bowne	924	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brandyw s	472	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Buffton	86	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CFX Cp	161	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Calchsca	99	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cables pf	486	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Calton	400	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cambior	126	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CdnOcc g	5805	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CanyonRs	1538	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Careml s	117	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CareerBco	150	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CasBAM	83	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CFCda g	100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ChadThr	638	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chief	310	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citadel	428	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MagnHund	337	5⅜	5⅛	5⅜	-⅛
MalibuEnt	392	4⅛	3⅞	3⅞	-⅛
MaxmPh n	122	9⅛	8⅞	9	+⅛
MaxmP wt	550	2⅞	1⅞	2⅞	+⅞
Maxxam	184	44⅞	44	44⅞	+⅜
MedcR	724	8⅜	8	8⅜	—
Media	287	30⅜	30⅛	30⅜	+⅜
MediaLog	676	3⅜	3⅛	3⅜	+⅛
Medtox	3435	⅞	⅞	⅞	—
Metromdo	5011	11⅛	10⅜	11	+⅝
MichAnf	287	3⅜	3⅛	3⅜	+⅛
MidsdRly	375	11⅝	11⅜	11½	+⅛
MorgnF	290	½	⅜	½	—
MSHK wt97	80	11½	11⅛	11⅛	-⅜
MSNik 97wt	445	5⅜	5	5⅜	—
Muniln	90	8⅝	8⅜	8⅝	+⅛
MuniHlg n	127	14⅝	14⅝	14⅝	-⅛
Moovst	266	9⅛	9	9	+½
MunyAZ	84	12⅜	12	12⅜	+½
NTNCom	971	3	2⅞	2⅞	-⅛
NVR	182	15⅜	15⅛	15⅜	+⅜
Nabors	2870	22⅝	22	22⅝	+⅜
NtlPatnt	256	7½	7⅜	7⅜	+⅛
Neoprobe s	547	4⅛	3⅞	3⅞	+⅛
NY Times	961	47⅛	46⅞	46⅞	-⅛
Nestor n	186	14⅜	14⅛	14⅜	+⅛
NA Vacc	476	19	18⅝	19	+⅜
NtwTch	87	8⅜	8⅛	8⅜	+⅛
Novonix	207	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	-⅛
Nstor n	272	2⅞	2⅝	2⅝	+⅛
OSullvnC	87	9	9	9	+⅛
OmniMultt	199	1½	1⅜	1½	—
Oncor	2775	3⅞	3⅝	3⅞	+⅛
Organogn s	647	18⅜	18⅛	18⅜	+⅛
PGECap pf	97	24⅜	24¼	24⅜	-⅛
PLC Sys	1177	17⅝	17⅜	17⅝	-⅛
PLM	212	5⅜	5⅛	5⅜	+⅛
PMC CT	87	17⅜	17	17	-⅜
PGEnfQ	252	[illegible]	25⅛	25⅛	—
PanAmC n	714	8	7⅞	7⅞	-⅛
PacesnC	7390	10⅛	9⅝	10⅛	+⅜
PegGld	3018	7⅛	6⅞	7⅛	+⅛
Pacltel	236	1⅞	1⅝	1⅞	-⅛
Phonetel	230	3⅛	2⅞	3	+⅞
PlaRsc	692	15	14⅝	15	+⅜
Polymed	265	5⅜	5⅛	5⅜	-⅛
Polyvisn	87	⅞	¾	⅞	+⅛
PortSys s	129	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜	+⅛
PrpdLg	10220	19⅜	17⅜	19⅜	+2
ProDx	98	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜	—
Pricell s	124	9⅛	8⅞	9⅛	+⅛
PropCT s	957	6⅜	6⅛	6⅜	+⅛
PsycCp	498	7⅜	6⅞	7⅜	+⅛
QC Opt s	127	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	-⅛
RF Pow	1225	4⅛	3⅞	4	+⅛
RaaGold	216	⅞	¾	⅞	-⅛
RLIeolan	95	22⅜	21⅞	22⅜	+⅜
Rotec	166	6⅞	6⅝	6⅝	+⅛
RegalBel	198	26⅜	26⅛	26⅛	-⅛
RobertsPh	892	12⅜	12⅛	12⅜	+⅛
RoyalO g	1987	2⅞	2⅝	2⅞	+⅛
SaloPet s	219	15½	15⅜	15½	+⅛
SFeGam	177	⅞	⅞	⅞	—
Scheib	85	6⅜	6⅜	6⅜	-⅛
Selicore n	307	12⅞	12	12⅞	+⅛
SentryT n	112	3⅛	3	3⅛	+⅛
Servico	143	14⅜	14½	14⅜	—
ShefldMd	1407	2⅞	2⅝	2⅞	-⅛
Silico	360	14⅛	13⅞	13⅞	+⅛
SgnlTech	161	7⅜	7	7⅜	+⅜
SilverFds	432	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	—
SmrtBn	365	9⅜	9⅛	9⅜	-⅛
SoftBnM	352	14	13⅞	14	+⅛
Softnet	216	6⅛	5⅞	6	-⅛
ecSoftgen	174	⅞	⅞	⅞	—
SPDR	12360	85⅛	84½	84 25/32	-7/32
SP Mid	571	54 9/16	53⅞	54½	+½
SterlnA	199	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	+⅛
SlrgCap	40	14	13⅞	13⅞	—
SubstAbus	546	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜	—
Salcos	501	1⅞	1⅝	1⅞	+⅛
SupSrg	115	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜	—
Suprolnd	102	7⅛	7	7	-⅛
Sybron	88	17⅜	17⅛	17⅜	+⅛
TabPrd	317	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛	+⅛
TelDio	1648	38⅜	38	38⅜	-⅛
TexBiotch	1191	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛	-⅛
TexBl wt	133	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜	—
Thermed	419	17⅝	17⅜	17⅜	-⅛
ThrmBio n	127	14⅜	14⅛	14⅛	-⅛
ThCardio	417	26⅜	26⅛	26⅜	+⅛
ThrFbr n	111	9⅝	9½	9⅝	+⅛
ThrFbr rt	760	2⅜	2⅛	2⅜	—
ThmFib s	216	18⅜	18⅛	18⅜	—
Tarlast	346	35⅛	34½	34⅞	-⅞
ThrVoks	332	8⅜	8⅛	8⅛	-⅛
Thrmobe	1301	15⅛	14⅝	14⅝	—
Thmqst	161	14⅜	14⅛	14⅜	+⅛
Thrmotx	1012	29½	28⅞	28⅞	+⅛
Thrmed	222	1⅜	1½	1½	-⅛
Tipperay	396	4⅞	4⅝	4½	-⅛
Tofutti	274	⅞	⅞	⅞	+⅛
TopSrce	1072	1⅞	1⅝	1⅞	⅛
TotlPet	149	10⅜	10½	10⅜	+⅛
TownCty	97	⅞	¾	⅞	+⅛
TWA wt	140	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛	+⅛
TWA	2997	7⅞	7⅝	7⅞	+⅛
Transmd n	144	17⅜	17	17⅜	+⅛
Tritn	134	17⅜	17⅛	17⅜	-⅛
TrnsMed n	254	14⅜	13⅞	14⅜	+⅛
TubMex	433	17⅝	17½	17⅝	-⅛
Unapix	230	4½	4⅜	4⅜	+⅛
Unga wtB	84	⅛	⅛	⅛	+⅛
Unilab	4014	⅝	⅝	⅝	-⅛
Unimar	152	4⅜	4⅛	4⅜	+⅛
UnivMed	1725	5⅛	4⅞	4⅞	—
UFoodB	158	2⅞	2⅝	2⅞	+⅛
UGrdn	328	3⅛	3	3	-⅛
USBiosci	938	10⅜	10⅛	10⅛	-⅛
US Cel	742	27⅜	26⅞	27⅜	+⅛
VKAdMQ	104	11⅜	11⅛	11⅛	—
VKSelS	96	10⅜	10⅛	10⅜	—
Viacom	565	30⅞	30⅛	30⅛	-⅛
ViacB	5592	30⅜	29⅞	30⅛	+⅛
Viac wtE	210	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	-⅛
Virco	179	20⅜	20⅛	20⅜	-⅛
VistaG g	526	1	⅞	1	—
Visionic	1228	1	⅞	1	+⅛
VoyCO	107	13⅜	13⅛	13⅜	-⅛
VoyMN2	112	13⅜	13⅛	13⅜	+⅛
WRIT	335	16⅞	16	16⅞	+⅞
WelGrd	100	4	3⅞	3⅞	-⅛
WIRET	270	13⅞	13⅜	13⅞	+⅛
WirelsT	1093	11⅜	10⅞	11⅛	-⅛
WEBFrg	117	14⅜	14⅛	14⅜	+⅛
WEB HK	101	15⅜	15⅛	15⅛	-⅛
WEB Jpn	239	13⅜	13⅛	13⅜	-⅛
WEB Swd	97	18⅜	17⅞	18⅛	-⅛
WEB UK	111	16⅞	16⅝	16⅞	-⅛
XCL Ltd	3493	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zymon	160	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	[illegible]

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	7365.94	7368.81	7306.57	7330.18	-27.05
Trans	2659.46	2681.04	2654.84	2677.83	+21.27
Util	220.56	220.94	219.61	220.94	+0.38
Comp	2280.46	2285.29	2274.79	2280.77	+1.00

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Close (Previous)	Today 4 P.M.
Industrials	1006.41	997.66	1002.60	998.85
Transp.	618.03	611.87	613.20	617.66
Utilities	192.49	190.71	191.72	191.85
Finance	94.13	92.92	93.38	92.87
SP 500	850.95	843.21	847.21	844.08
SP 100	836.57	826.67	831.30	827.32

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	440.42	438.15	438.86	-0.80
Industrials	560.61	557.70	558.80	-0.98
Transp.	403.77	400.60	403.05	+2.35
Utility	271.40	270.37	270.93	-0.20
Finance	394.50	391.35	391.84	-1.32

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1413.79	1401.85	1403.11	-7.07
Industrials	1130.68	1127.05	1127.75	-0.32
Banks	1474.62	1467.89	1472.64	+3.23
Insurance	1521.71	1513.45	1520.75	+4.50
Finance	1780.35	1774.56	1778.09	-1.66
Transp.	931.91	925.12	929.08	-0.91

AMEX

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
	603.12	600.79	603.12	+2.33

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	101.97	— 0.03
10 Utilities	98.83	— 0.15
10 Industrials	105.10	+0.08

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
NikeB s	196728	56¾	54	55	-9
Seagate s	105508	44⅜	39⅞	40⅜	-4½
WasteI	72392	20⅜	19⅞	20	+⅛
CUC Intl s	60341	23⅜	22⅞	22⅞	-⅜
KimbClk s	57862	50⅜	48⅞	49⅞	-2⅛
IBM s	57698	90	87½	87¾	-2⅛
AT&T s	54744	36⅜	35⅞	36⅛	-⅛
CablWire	52202	24⅞	24½	24⅝	+½
MercFn	46998	2⅞	2⅜	2⅜	+⅛
MirRsrt s	45989	23⅞	22⅞	23⅝	+½
TimeWarn	44976	47⅜	46⅞	46⅞	-⅛
ITT Corp	44189	59⅜	59⅛	59⅛	-⅛
PhilMor s	40213	44⅜	43	44⅜	+⅛
TelefEsp	40119	89½	87⅛	87⅛	-2⅜
Gala2000	39100	74⅛	68⅞	68⅞	-5⅜

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
3Com	197376	51	47⅛	47 9/16	-3⅞
BostChk	137580	17⅜	16	16⅜	-1⅜
WorldCm s	123340	27⅝	27⅛	27⅜	+⅝
Intel	116548	167 9/16	162⅞	163 13/16	-3
Novell	102598	8	7⅞	7 27/32	-7/32
Ryanair wi	87279	25⅜	21¼	25⅛	—
Cisco	86687	68⅞	66⅜	66⅜	-2⅝
Volvo rf	77972	¼	⅛	⅛	
DellCpt s	70595	115⅝	109½	110⅜	-5⅜
US Robt	68324	88½	81¾	82¾	-5⅜
Microsft s	63784	129⅞	125	125⅞	—
ForeSys s	62178	17⅜	16⅜	17	+⅜
Quantum	61826	43	38⅞	39⅜	-2⅞
PairTch s	60883	21⅞	20⅜	20⅜	+⅛
Oracle	53876	48⅛	46⅜	47⅜	—

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
SPDR	12360	85⅛	84½	84 25/32	-7/32
PrpdLg	10220	19⅜	17⅜	19⅜	+2
Amdhl	8601	9⅛	8⅞	9⅛	+⅛
IvaxCp	7676	10⅜	9⅜	10	+⅜
PacesnC	7390	10⅛	9⅝	10⅛	+⅜
ImpOil g	6343	47⅞	47½	47⅞	+⅛
CdnOcc g	5805	22 9/16	22⅛	22 9/16	+⅛
ViacB	5592	30⅜	29⅞	30⅛	+⅛
Fibrbd	5212	54⅞	54⅜	54⅜	-⅛
Audvox	5183	6⅞	6⅜	6⅞	+⅛

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1460	1324
Declined	1068	1191
Unchanged	848	844
Total issues	3376	3359
New Highs	187	171
New Lows	7	11

Nasdaq

	Noon	Prev.
Advanced	1648	2054
Declined	1572	1891
Unchanged	2254	1790
Total issues	5474	5735
New Highs	94	168
New Lows	81	73

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	299	264
Declined	253	273
Unchanged	169	203
Total issues	721	740
New Highs	31	35
New Lows	6	9

Market Sales

	Today 4:00	Prev. cons.
NYSE	464.88	595.18
Amex	19.91	23.57
Nasdaq	580.74	646.84

in millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Carlton Comm		.50	6-13	6-16
STOCK SPLIT				
Fst Banking SE GA 5 for 4 split.				
Ft Wayne Ntl 3 for 2 split.				
Home Depot 3 for 2 split.				
Norex Indust 4 for 1 split.				
Sunrise Educ c		.3375	6-1	6-30
c- payable in common shares.				
INCREASED				
Fst Virginia Bks	Q	.39	6-30	7-21
Ottawa Finl	Q	.10	6-10	6-30
United Fire.	Q	.16	6-1	6-15
Worthington Ind	Q	.13	6-12	6-25
YEAREND				
New Holland	-	.55	6-6	6-16
INITIAL				
Heritage Bncp n	-	.12	6-13	6-30
Textron Inc n	-	.25	6-13	7-1
REGULAR				
ACM Gv Opportun	M	.0625	6-6	6-20
Allant Commun	Q	.16	6-24	7-10
Alpharma Inc	Q	.045	7-11	7-25
Angelica Corp	Q	.24	6-16	7-1
CalMat Co	Q	.10	6-17	7-1
ChemFirst Inc	Q	.10	6-12	6-27
Elmira Svgs Bk	Q	.16	6-13	6-27
Fst Fed Fin KY.	Q	.13	6-15	7-1
Fst FinCp Indiana	S	.35	6-17	7-1
Fst Indiana Corp	Q	.12	6-5	6-17
G&L Realty	Q	.36	6-30	7-15
Hancock FatGib	M	.0875	6-6	6-30
Invest Co Amer	Q	.12	6-6	6-9
Lawson Prod	Q	.13	7-3	7-17
Maryland FedB	Q	.20	6-6	6-20
Medford Svgs	Q	.18	6-13	7-15
Portland Gen	Q	.32	6-4	6-18
Teche Holding	Q	.125	6-16	6-30
TriNet Corp	Q	.63	6-30	7-15
Union Pacific Cp	Q	.43	6-11	7-1
Unionbancal Corp	Q	.35	6-6	7-3
Western Res	Q	.525	6-6	7-1
Whitney Hldg	Q	.28	6-16	7-1
Wrigley, Wm	Q	.19	7-15	8-1

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration. a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99. cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

May 29, 1997

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Jul 97	274½	268¼	269¾	—¼	119,994
Sep 97	260¼	255	255¾	—1¾	30,486
Dec 97	258½	253	253¼	—2	112,058
Mar 98	264	258¾	259	—2¼	12,695
May 98	267	262½	263	—2	1,262
Jul 98	271	267	267	—2	3,259
Sep 98			258		1
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 767,122					
Wed's open int 283,274 off 1411					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
Jul 97	290.30	281.00	288.10	+7.80	48,124
Aug 97	271.00	261.70	268.60	+7.00	14,068
Sep 97	248.50	243.00	246.70	+5.20	10,174
Oct 97	233.00	226.50	231.20	+3.70	10,562
Dec 97	224.00	218.00	222.70	+3.70	20,392
Jan 98	220.00	214.70	219.00	+3.50	2,171
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 24,966					
Wed's open int 110,530 up 195					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb					
Jul 97	24.27	23.77	23.88	—0.09	50,174
Aug 97	24.45	23.98	24.05	—0.09	15,306
Sep 97	24.55	24.09	24.17	—0.10	9,262
Oct 97	24.55	24.12	24.18	—0.07	9,099
Dec 97	24.70	24.28	24.32	—0.13	17,928
Jan 98	24.72	24.43	24.43	—0.22	1,289
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 24,313					
Wed's open int 103,440 up 25					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Jul 97	879½	852	869½	+20	92,217
Aug 97	836	810	822¾	+16¾	24,025
Sep 97	737	717	727½	+14½	8,864
Nov 97	689½	674	682½	+12½	50,824
Jan 98	690	677	684½	+10½	6,531
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 62,773					
Wed's open int 185,340 up 1966					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Jul 97	374½	358	358½	—8½	47,176
Sep 97	381	366	366½	—6½	15,081
Dec 97	392½	377	377½	—7¼	17,134
Mar 98	392	380	380	—7	1,787
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 27,563					
Wed's open int 81,734 up 586					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 97	65.72	65.22	65.35	—0.05	24,329
Aug 97	65.75	65.15	65.17	—0.25	41,554
Oct 97	68.75	68.35	68.37	—0.25	19,228
Dec 97	71.20	70.75	70.77	—0.30	10,266
Feb 98	71.50	71.15	71.17	—0.10	5,109
Apr 98	73.25	72.95	72.97	—0.02	2,084
Est. sales 12,901 Wed's. sales 18,597					
Wed's open int 102,709 off 68					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97			76.27		1,582
Aug 97	79.05	78.07	78.32	—0.12	10,936
Sep 97	78.40	77.80	77.95	—0.15	2,895
Oct 97	78.40	77.75	78.05	—0.07	3,311
Nov 97	79.75	79.10	79.32	—0.02	1,538
Jan 98	80.00	79.35	79.90	+0.15	472
Est. sales 1,987 Wed's. sales 3,480					
Wed's open int 18,929 up 22					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 97	80.20	79.42	80.05	+0.20	9,593
Jul 97	80.47	79.30	80.32	+0.37	10,645
Aug 97	78.77	77.30	78.65	+0.80	7,983
Oct 97	70.95	69.80	70.75	+0.60	5,925
Dec 97	68.35	67.40	68.25	+0.40	3,634
Est. sales 11,189 Wed's. sales 16,456					
Wed's open int 40,639 off 574					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	87.45	85.90	86.10	—2.80	6,360
Aug 97	87.20	85.50	85.95	—2.07	1,833
Feb 98	75.90	74.25	75.90	+0.90	434
Est. sales 4,112 Wed's. sales 1,763					
Wed's open int 8,639 up 65					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
Jul 97	1502	1467	1498	+32	28,935
Sep 97	1537	1498	1528	+32	13,916
Dec 97	1564	1530	1563	+34	18,481
Mar 98	1590	1554	1585	+31	20,999
May 98	1606	1583	1603	+27	8,534
Jul 98	1623	1598	1623	+27	523
Est. sales 14,536 Wed's. sales 5,788					
Wed's open int 93,443 off 1155					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	318.00	302.00	314.80	+19.25	14,882
Sep 97	277.00	228.80	273.80	+17.10	7,765
Dec 97	228.80	220.55	228.80	+14.25	5,022
Mar 98	205.80	201.55	205.80	+10.25	2,141
May 98			196.80	+12.80	440
Est. sales 12,483 Wed's. sales 13,227					
Wed's open int 30,484 up 144					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	11.22	11.15	11.21	+0.03	74,339
Oct 97	11.02	10.95	11.01	+0.06	44,375
Mar 98	10.96	10.89	10.95	+0.05	25,934
May 98	10.87	10.80	10.87	+0.07	6,598
Est. sales 17,462 Wed's. sales 13,629					
Wed's open int 155,128 off 1882					

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	78.50	77.00	77.20	—1.05	15,917
Sep 97	80.80	79.50	79.65	—0.85	7,315
Nov 97	83.70	82.50	82.55	—0.95	3,547
Jan 98	86.50	85.20	85.25	—0.75	1,579
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 3,143					
Wed's open int 29,768 off 59					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jun 97	346.50	343.90	345.90	+0.60	17,060
Jul 97			347.20	+0.80	
Aug 97	349.20	346.50	348.60	+1.00	61,683
Oct 97	351.70	349.80	351.20	+0.90	7,167
Dec 97	354.30	352.00	353.90	+0.90	26,729
Feb 98			356.60	+0.90	7,092
Apr 98			359.20	+0.90	3,833
Jun 98			361.90	+0.80	7,031
Aug 98			364.80	+0.80	762
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 89,584					
Wed's open int 162,050 up 3239					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 97	119.50	118.10	118.90	—0.10	3,728
Jul 97	119.75	118.50	119.25	—0.20	34,632
Aug 97	116.30	115.70	116.05	+0.20	1,947
Sep 97	115.30	114.20	114.85	+0.30	6,933
Oct 97	113.00	112.75	112.75	—0.50	1,084
Nov 97			110.95	+0.50	1,171
Dec 97	110.20	108.80	109.95	+1.00	5,941
Jan 98			107.20	+0.15	573
Feb 98			106.20	+0.40	481
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 9,503					
Wed's open int 61,106 up 1457					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Jun 97			481.50	+10.90	4
Jul 97	484.50	471.00	483.80	+10.80	59,720
Sep 97	488.50	476.00	488.30	+10.40	6,592
Dec 97	495.10	483.50	495.10	+10.00	7,477
Jan 98			497.20	+9.80	17
Mar 98	502.30	492.50	502.30	+9.60	7,983
May 98			499.50		2,711
Jul 98			511.80	+9.00	2,084
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 13,939					
Wed's open int 90,611 up 1134					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jul 97	420.50	406.50	410.30	—0.20	14,733
Oct 97	410.70	397.00	403.80	+2.30	4,700
Jan 98	405.00	398.30	398.30	+2.30	1,219
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 5,783					
Wed's open int 20,672 up 999					

LONDON METALS (LME)

	Close		Previous	
Dollars per metric ton				
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1609½	1610½	1625½	1626½
Forward	1626.00	1627.00	1639.00	1640.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2595.00	2597.00	2602.00	2604.00
Forward	2525.00	2526.00	2528.00	2530.00
Lead				
Spot	626½	627½	636.00	637.00
Forward	635.00	636.00	644½	645.00
Nickel				
Spot	7160.00	7170.00	7185.00	7190.00
Forward	7270.00	7275.00	7295.00	7300.00
Tin				
Spot	5520.00	5530.00	5635.00	5640.00
Forward	5575.00	5580.00	5680.00	5690.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1323.00	1324.00	1342.00	1343.00
Forward	1345.00	1346.00	1364.00	1365.00

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
Financial					
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 97	94.90	94.83	94.89	+0.05	4,475
Sep 97	94.57	94.55	94.56	+0.03	5,506
Dec 97			94.48		847
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 773					
Wed's open int 9,981 up 100					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct					
Jun 97	105-15	105-04	105-13	+ 09	155,524
Sep 97	105-00	104-55	104-63	+ 08	71,396
Dec 97	104-46	104-39	104-46	+ 07	479
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 89,516					
Wed's open int 227,399 up 6858					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 97	107-01	106-25	107-00	+ 07	243,300
Sep 97	106-18	106-10	106-16	+ 07	110,134
Dec 97	106-05	106-00	106-05	+ 07	1,920
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 145,449					
Wed's open int 355,354 up 3296					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Jun 97	109-11	108-23	109-10	+ 19	335,548
Sep 97	108-30	108-11	108-30	+ 19	165,983
Dec 97	108-17	108-02	108-17	+ 20	25,806
Mar 98	108-07	108-03	108-07	+ 20	2,086
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 545,361					
Wed's open int 531,073 up 22346					
LIBOR 1-MONTH (CMER) $3 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 97	94.30	94.29	94.29		14,875
Jul 97	94.22	94.21	94.22		10,094
Aug 97	94.15	94.14	94.15	+0.01	4,776
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 6,979					
Wed's open int 32,731 up 2762					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 97	112-15	112-04	112-06	— 0-04	130,399
Sep 97	112-25	112-14	112-16	— 0-04	100,739
Est. sales: 117,061. Prev. sales: 191,384					
Prev. open int.: 231,138 up 24,456					

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
GERMAN GOV. BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	100.64	100.33	100.48	— 0.33	223,748
Sep 97	99.62	99.32	99.45	— 0.33	47,378
Est. sales: 197,866. Prev. sales: 284,495					
Prev. open int.: 271,126 up 2,460					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	129.28	128.70	128.72	— 0.41	86,385
Sep 97	129.80	129.25	129.21	— 0.46	27,283
Est. sales: 82,896. Prev. sales: 102,313					
Prev. open int.: 113,668 up 1,195					
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	128.24	127.90	128.14	— 0.02	173,112
Sep 97	126.66	126.40	126.58	— 0.02	28,049
Est. sales: 252,071. Open int.: 201,161 up 25,458.					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 97	94.18	94.16	94.17		493,343
Jul 97	94.08	94.07	94.08	+0.01	13,469
Aug 97	94.01	93.98	94.01		1,754
Sep 97	93.95	93.92	93.95	+0.02	471,810
Dec 97	93.70	93.65	93.70	+0.04	373,792
Mar 98	93.57	93.51	93.56	+0.04	269,933
Jun 98	93.45	93.40	93.44	+0.03	231,973
Sep 98	93.35	93.31	93.34	+0.03	175,245
Dec 98	93.24	93.19	93.23	+0.03	123,939
Mar 99	93.23	93.18	93.22	+0.03	98,865
Jun 99	93.18	93.14	93.17	+0.03	80,684
Sep 99	93.14	93.09	93.13	+0.04	67,439
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 490,698					
Wed's open int 2,719,344 up 5534					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Jun 97	1.6428	1.6338	1.6386		36,989
Sep 97	1.6390	1.6340	1.6354		4,752
Dec 97			1.6324		117
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 9,051					
Wed's open int 41,858 up 74					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Jun 97	.7270	.7239	.7255		58,433
Sep 97	.7316	.7290	.7300		8,674
Dec 97	.7360	.7335	.7339		1,606
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 9,521					
Wed's open int 69,661 up 108					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Jun 97	.5914	.5865	.5898		75,107
Sep 97	.5947	.5912	.5936		5,084
Dec 97			.5977		533
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 27,152					
Wed's open int 80,846 off 292					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Jun 97	.8692	.8600	.8615		78,167
Sep 97	.8790	.8720	.8730		5,488
Dec 97			.8846		853
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 16,710					
Wed's open int 84,716 off 398					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Jun 97	.7125	.7045	.7099		44,846
Sep 97	.7206	.7138	.7181		5,945
Dec 97			.7265		443
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 17,842					
Wed's open int 51,286 off 1247					
MEXICAN PESO (CMER) 500,000 pesos, $ per peso					
Jun 97	.12575	.12550	.12565		16,294
Sep 97	.12102	.12080	.12095		10,687
Dec 97	.11650	.11647	.11650		7,131
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 5,432					
Wed's open int 36,429 off 768					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	93.36	93.34	93.35	Unch.	111,122
Sep 97	93.16	93.11	93.14	+ 0.01	108,289
Dec 97	92.97	92.92	92.96	+ 0.03	96,646
Mar 98	92.84	92.79	92.82	+ 0.03	60,788
Jun 98	92.74	92.69	92.72	+ 0.03	46,752
Sep 98	92.67	92.63	92.65	+ 0.03	32,890
Dec 98	92.63	92.58	92.60	+ 0.02	26,874
Est. sales: 35,079. Prev. sales: 82,639					
Prev. open int.: 534,463 up 3,344					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	96.80	96.79	96.80	— 0.01	224,943
Jul 97	N.T.	N.T.	96.78	Unch.	1,497
Aug 97	N.T.	N.T.	96.76	— 0.01	101
Sep 97	96.73	96.72	96.72	— 0.02	215,605
Dec 97	96.59	96.57	96.58	— 0.01	236,482
Mar 98	96.44	96.41	96.43	— 0.02	211,990
Jun 98	96.25	96.22	96.24	— 0.02	153,668
Sep 98	96.03	96.00	96.02	— 0.02	125,095
Dec 98	95.77	95.73	95.76	— 0.02	85,093
Mar 99	95.50	95.47	95.49	— 0.03	82,521
Est. sales: 85,571. Prev. sales: 113,311					
Prev. open int.: 1,471,066 up 9,196					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	96.29	96.22	96.28	+ 0.05	63,682
Sep 97	96.31	96.24	96.31	+ 0.05	62,877
Dec 97	96.33	96.25	96.33	+ 0.04	36,796
Mar 98	96.28	96.24	96.27	+ 0.03	29,358
Jun 98	96.17	96.14	96.17	+ 0.03	23,102
Sep 98	96.02	95.99	96.02	+ 0.03	21,682
Dec 98	95.81	95.79	95.81	+ 0.00	15,794
Mar 99	95.57	95.55	95.57	+ 0.00	13,676
Est. sales: 75,937. Open int.: 286,973 up 2,528.					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	93.18	93.08	93.12	— 0.01	103,219
Sep 97	93.44	93.32	93.38	— 0.01	91,669
Dec 97	93.62	93.48	93.56	— 0.01	53,006
Mar 98	93.69	93.57	93.65	+ 0.01	37,685
Jun 98	93.70	93.58	93.67	+ 0.03	26,263
Sep 98	93.69	93.58	93.66	+ 0.03	8,932
Est. sales: 83,762. Prev. sales: 71,145					
Prev. open int.: 325,607 off 1,838					

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Industrials					
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	73.65	73.05	73.56	+0.35	36,023
Oct 97	75.20	74.65	74.92	+0.27	4,230
Dec 97	75.65	75.25	75.61	+0.29	26,030
Mar 98	76.90	76.50	76.83	+0.30	3,860
May 98	77.40	77.00	77.40	+0.15	987
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 7,915					
Wed's open int 73,452 up 301					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Jun 97	56.55	54.80	55.95	+0.56	12,321
Jul 97	56.70	54.80	55.95	+0.64	38,834
Aug 97	57.15	55.30	56.50	+0.74	18,409
Sep 97	57.50	56.45	57.30	+0.79	9,545
Oct 97	58.60	57.25	57.98	+0.84	8,757
Nov 97	59.00	57.95	59.00	+1.04	7,951
Dec 97	59.95	58.50	59.75	+1.14	12,412
Jan 98	60.20	59.60	60.20	+1.24	8,343
Feb 98	60.20	58.50	60.20	+1.39	3,863
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 26,590					
Wed's open int 131,454 off 200					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Jul 97	21.28	20.57	20.97	+0.18	104,445
Aug 97	21.35	20.73	21.07	+0.17	51,856
Sep 97	21.29	20.72	21.05	+0.17	30,594
Oct 97	21.19	20.70	20.98	+0.17	19,124
Nov 97	21.10	20.63	20.90	+0.17	17,225
Dec 97	21.03	20.50	20.82	+0.18	35,633
Jan 98	20.97	20.55	20.76	+0.18	17,650
Feb 98	20.80	20.70	20.70	+0.18	7,377
Mar 98	20.75	20.45	20.64	+0.18	4,523
Apr 98	20.66	20.40	20.58	+0.18	4,241
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 85,829					
Wed's open int 486,027 up 4599					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Jul 97	2.315	2.240	2.250		41,812
Aug 97	2.305	2.245	2.251		22,285
Sep 97	2.280	2.220	2.220		17,949
Oct 97	2.275	2.230	2.230		19,468
Nov 97	2.380	2.345	2.345		8,175
Dec 97	2.490	2.450	2.450		12,297
Jan 98	2.525	2.490	2.490		11,771
Feb 98	2.405	2.385	2.385		8,315
Mar 98	2.255	2.235	2.235		6,365
Apr 98	2.120	2.100	2.100		3,410
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 77,374					
Wed's open int 201,877 off 9571					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Jun 97	66.50	64.70	65.15	—0.65	16,004
Jul 97	64.10	62.25	63.25	+0.21	39,486
Aug 97	62.70	61.10	62.00	+0.31	10,403
Sep 97	61.50	60.30	60.90	+0.41	4,969
Oct 97	59.20	58.50	59.00	+0.46	3,275
Nov 97	58.25	58.20	58.20	+0.46	1,768
Dec 97	57.90	57.75	57.75	+0.45	3,949
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 33,873					
Wed's open int 84,027 off 4058					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
Jun 97	174.50	171.75	174.25	+1.25	22,320
Jul 97	175.25	172.25	175.25	+2.00	13,947
Aug 97	177.00	174.25	177.00	+2.00	7,700
Sep 97	178.75	176.00	178.75	+1.75	4,074
Oct 97	179.50	178.00	180.50	+1.75	4,932
Nov 97	N.T.	N.T.	181.75	+1.75	1,879
Dec 97	182.50	180.00	182.50	+1.75	7,808
Est. sales: 12,396. Open int.: 67,334 off 50					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
July 97	19.63	19.10	19.48	+0.24	69,707
Aug 97	19.73	19.23	19.57	+0.19	39,522
Sep 97	19.78	19.34	19.65	+0.18	11,198
Oct 97	19.81	19.40	19.69	+0.18	8,470
Nov 97	19.70	19.70	19.70	+0.16	6,230
Dec 97	19.59	19.37	19.64	+0.16	11,967
Jan 98	19.62	19.38	19.56	+0.14	8,293
Feb 98	N.T.	N.T.	19.49	+0.14	4,660
Est. sales: 34,500 Open int: 164,360 off 3,004					
Stock Indexes					
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Jun 97	851.40	844.00	844.70	—5.85	173,307
Sep 97	859.80	853.00	854.15	—5.05	17,379
Dec 97	865.25	862.00	862.00	—6.40	3,388
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 69,396					
Wed's open int 195,300 up 1440					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Jun 97	4705.0	4680.0	4680.0	— 8.0	68,172
Sep 97	4734.0	4711.0	4713.5	— 8.0	7,215
Dec 97	N.T	N.T	4762.0	— 8.0	522
Est. sales: 10,620. Prev. sales: 12,222					
Prev. open int.: 75,909 up 1,033					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
May 97	2625.0	2566.0	2575.0	— 4.00	16,902
Jun 97	2601.0	2540.5	2550.0	— 4.00	32,870
Jul 97	2584.0	2556.0	2549.0	— 4.00	2,826
Sep 97	2606.0	2561.5	2564.5	— 4.00	14,045
Mar 98	2626.0	2617.0	2608.0	— 4.00	7,499
Est. sales: 66,573. Open int.: 76,038 off 3,353.					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	N.A.	1,599.70
Reuters	2,023.40	2,000.90
D.J. Futures	166.68	164.75
CRB	254.02	252.34

Sources: Matif, Associated Press, London Int'l Financial Futures Exchange, Int'l Petroleum Exchange.

Continued on Page 11

NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 P.M.

The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

Shaking Up Sony

Innovative Chief Brings Profit

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — It was only two years ago that Nobuyuki Idei, a Sony Corp. executive who was a relative unknown in the clubby Japanese business world and even in Sony itself, took over the demoralized consumer-electronics company.

Soon, skeptics everywhere were taunting him to "show me the money" — to steal a line from "Jerry Maguire," a film from Sony's Hollywood studio.

Mr. Idei, 59, has done just that.

Sony recently reported record profit and sales. Sony's sales soared 23 percent to $45.7 billion in the year ended March 31, and its profit hit $1.1 billion, a rise of 157 percent. Part of that was due to the weak yen, which made Japanese products cheaper for foreign buyers. But part of it was due to Sony's own innovations.

Many analysts credit the strong earnings performance in large part to Mr. Idei's action-packed style, which contrasts sharply with the deliberate, rule-by-consensus approach of conventional Japanese management.

Mr. Idei has combined a series of restructurings with a stream of new and successful consumer-electronics products. He has reined in the U.S. operation, particularly Sony Pictures Entertainment, a movie company that had run up billions of dollars in debt.

At home, he has revamped the board of directors, producing a smaller, Western-style board. He says he intends to increase the number of outside directors, who presumably would provide tougher supervision.

Now, he is plunging the company into potentially risky businesses — satellite television broadcasting, advertising and personal computers.

Taken together, the steps have restored Sony in many analysts' minds to its status as a trailblazer for corporate Japan and the consumer-electronics world. "I believe that Sony is the first truly global company to be able to offer hardware electronics, software content and distribution services," Mr. Idei said.

You would have to go back a decade to find Sony so strong. Back then, Sony personified everything that was powerful and threatening about corporate Japan. Its products — Walkmans, Trinitron televisions, camcorders — were everywhere. It seemed to be buying up Hollywood. It was run by an inspiring entrepreneur, Akio Morita.

But then, cheaper Asian competitors blasted onto the scene. The strengthening yen made Japanese exports more expensive. The company appeared unable to handle Columbia Pictures, which was coming out with a series of duds. As the studio drained Sony's resources, the consumer-electronics division failed for several years to produce a new hit.

In 1993, Mr. Morita suffered a stroke, and the next year he retired. That same year, Sony took a stunning $3.2 billion write-off for its movie operations.

After Mr. Morita's stroke, a longtime Sony manager, Norio Ohga, ran the company, and the seeds of many of today's successful projects were sown. But analysts say he lacked the drive to push the company through the major transition it needed at the speed that modern technology demanded. In April 1995, in a move in line with Sony's reputation for breaking the mold, the company reached down into the ranks to put Mr. Idei in charge.

Mr. Idei focused Sony's attention and resources on a digital future in which traditional consumer electronics would converge with computers and communications technology.

Mr. Idei sought advice on the computer business from Intel's chief executive, Andrew Grove; on the movie business from Rupert Murdoch; and on the digital world from Masayoshi Son, head of Softbank Corp., a rapidly growing Japanese Internet company.

Sony's president, Nobuyuki Idei.

He has since done major deals with all three — getting Intel's help in entering the personal-computer business and joining Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Son in a satellite broadcast service in Japan.

Perhaps the biggest surprise has been Sony's success in the video-game market, once the domain of Nintendo Co. and Sega Enterprises Ltd. After only two and a half years in the business, Sony's PlayStation game machine is No. 1. For the year that ended March 31, Sony sold 9.2 million video-game players worldwide, compared with Nintendo's 6.1 million and Sega's 4.6 million.

Sony still faces problems, though. Although Sony Pictures was the top U.S. movie company in terms of box-office receipts for the first five months of this year, it is unclear whether it can keep up that pace.

Some skeptics wonder whether Sony should be forging off into new highly competitive areas, such as satellite broadcasting, so soon after the Hollywood debacle. But Mr. Idei said he saw little risk in the satellite broadcasting venture.

"From Sony's point of view, entering the field of digital satellite broadcasting will add the distribution element to our global strategy of supplying hardware electronics and software content," he said.

'Red-Chip' IPO Triples in Debut

HONG KONG — Shares in Beijing Enterprises Holdings Ltd. more than tripled Thursday on their first day of trading after being the most oversubscribed issue in Hong Kong's history.

Beijing Enterprises, the holding company of the Chinese capital's government, closed at 41 Hong Kong dollars ($5.29), up from its initial public offering price of 12.48, after having traded as high as 45.

The frenzy in Hong Kong to buy shares of Beijing Enterprises demonstrates the growing importance of political connections in China as the July 1 handover of Hong Kong from British to Chinese control approaches. This is especially true of so-called red-chip shares such as Beijing Enterprises and other companies listed in Hong Kong that are controlled by mainland government entities or Chinese state-owned enterprises.

Beijing Enterprises owns several high-profile assets — including China's biggest brewery, a share of the ticket concessions for the Great Wall and a stake in Beijing's 30 McDonald's Corp. fast-food outlets — and it has promised to buy more.

"Red chips are a great barometer," said William Kaye, senior managing director of Pacific Alliance Group. "These are companies that, in most cases, have very little in the way of existing businesses, so they are a very good barometer of excessive optimism in the marketplace right now. Eventually, that bubble will burst."

Investors who saw Beijing Enterprises as a sure route to profit made its share sale the most popular in the two-decade history of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. They applied for 1,276 times the 15 million shares the company offered them, submitting about $28 billion in bids for the $24.2 million in stock.

Only investors who bid at least $1.1 million for 700,000 shares were guaranteed a minimum lot of 2,000 shares.

Another Chinese company that is attracting considerable attention is First Tractor Co., which was set up by China's Communist government after it took power in 1949. The company hopes to raise 1.2 billion dollars. First Tractor's 300 million shares will sell at 3.12 to 3.97 dollars each, according to Peregrine Capital Ltd. *(AFP, Bloomberg, WP)*

■ Shares Fall Sharply

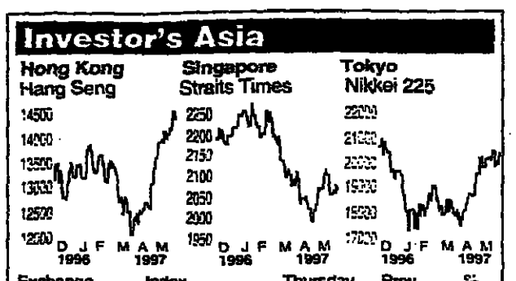
Hong Kong stocks fell sharply as property shares tumbled amid concern that the government might limit banks' mortgage lending to cool property speculation, Bloomberg News reported.

The benchmark Hang Seng Index fell 139.91 points, or almost 1 percent, to close at 14,416.57, its biggest drop since April 14.

Developers such as Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. and Henderson Land Development Ltd. accounted for almost half of the index's decline.

"Many people feel there may be measures planned to restrict mortgage lending, and that's affecting the market," said Miles Remington, head of sales at SocGen Crosby Securities (H.K.) Ltd.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	14,416.57	14,556.48	-0.96
Singapore	Straits Times	2,067.17	2,064.36	+0.14
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,590.60	2,585.20	+0.21
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	20,312.20	20,351.34	-0.19
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,105.62	1,096.33	+0.85
Bangkok	SET	558.17	562.83	-0.83
Seoul	Composite Index	742.50	738.12	+0.59
Taipei	Stock Market Index	7,997.65	8,058.46	-0.75
Manila	PSE	2,758.61	2,722.67	+1.32
Jakarta	Composite Index	689.50	672.50	+2.53
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,339.33	2,332.87	+0.28
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,724.11	3,685.31	+1.05

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Hitachi Ltd.** expects to post a group operating profit of 335 billion yen ($2.89 billion) in the current financial year ending March 31, 1998, up 13 percent, because of an expected revival of the chip market.
- **Bandai Co.** will replace its president and six of 13 board members after the cancellation of the toy maker's planned merger with Sega Enterprises Ltd.
- **China's Finance Ministry** uncovered more than 22 billion yuan ($2.6 billion) in illegal funds during an annual audit of tax and financial accounts, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The records of more than 5 million companies and individuals were searched between November and March, and about a fifth of the total were punished for rule violations.
- **All Nippon Airways Co.** appointed Senior Managing Director Kichisaburo Nomura as the company's president Thursday as three top executives resigned from the board, a spokesman said.
- **The island of Penang** in Malaysia plans a series of infrastructure projects to retain its attraction for multinational electronics firms and foreign tourists.
- **Mitsubishi Motors Corp.'s** profit plunged 26.4 percent, to 15 billion yen, after the automaker wrote down losses on its U.S. sales unit.
- **The Philippines'** economic growth slowed in this year's first quarter to 6.1 percent from 6.9 percent last year as manufacturing and mining weakened. *Bloomberg, Reuters, AP, AFP*

Japan Industrial Output Slumped in April After a Tax Increase

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — Japan's industrial output, an important measure of manufacturing strength, unexpectedly fell an adjusted 0.4 percent in April from a month ago, as companies slashed production after taxes were increased at the beginning of the month, the government said Thursday.

Bonds rose after the report, and the dollar strengthened against the yen, because the weak output numbers make it unlikely the central bank will raise interest rates anytime soon, economists said.

It was the third straight decline. Most economists had predicted a 1.1 percent rise. The decline came as domestic demand soured under the weight of new taxes imposed April 1.

"Production was so high at the beginning of the year, it was bound to slide since then," said Hideo Nakanishi of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. "Companies couldn't keep up that pace, but the overall trend is gradually improving."

The ministry said production fell largely because the government increased the consumption tax to 5 percent from 3 percent on April 1.

The April decline in production will not alter the government's view that the economy is improving, said Tsutomu Makino, the trade ministry deputy minister.

The government sees the economy growing 1.9 percent in the year ending in March 1998.

Forecasts of manufacturers compiled by the ministry show that production will rise 2.7 percent in May and decline 1.9 percent June. While exports of machinery, automobiles and electronics are rising on the back of a weaker yen, they failed to compensate for the slowdown that followed the tax increase, economists said.

"Exports make up only 15 percent of the economy, so they aren't enough to offset the weakness in domestic demand," said Akio Yoshino, an economist at Credit Suisse Asset Management.

The dollar's 8.9 percent rise against the yen through April helped export-oriented manufacturers, yet domestic demand will "inevitably" slacken in the April-September half, the Bank of Japan said. Economists expect growth to slow 0.7 percent in the April-June quarter, and industrial production to slide 2 percent.

Seoul's Current-Account Gap Falls

Bloomberg News

SEOUL — The current-account deficit shrank 28 percent last month from a year earlier, the central bank said Thursday, as surging steel and petrochemicals exports offset slumping tourism and freight revenue.

It was the fourth consecutive monthly decline in the deficit, which eased to $1.71 billion from $2.36 billion, signaling an export recovery that is vital to South Korean companies.

Australian Leader Hedges on Media Law

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SYDNEY — Prime Minister John Howard played down reports Thursday that his government planned to allow Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer to tighten their grip on the Australian media industry.

"Some of the reports in the papers this morning were hairy, but others were a little closer to the mark in terms of options," he said, adding that the government was examining a range of options on media-ownership rules.

The reports said the government would relax limits on foreign and cross-media ownership, clearing the way for a major reshuffle in the industry. Such a plan would lift the limit on individual foreign stakes in media companies to 25 percent from 15 percent. Mr. Murdoch, a native of Australia but a naturalized American citizen, owns 15 percent of Seven Network Ltd.

They also said consideration was being given to lifting the limit on total foreign ownership to 35 percent from 30 percent for print media and to 20 percent for television networks. Mr. Howard declined to confirm those figures.

Laws that prohibit individuals from controlling a television network and a newspaper in the same market also would be eased, the reports said, enabling Mr. Packer to take over the Fairfax companies while keeping control of Nine Network Ltd. Mr. Packer currently is limited to owning 17 percent of Fairfax. *(AFP, Bloomberg)*

ETHNIC: *Taking Note of Music*

Continued from Page 13

recording Indonesian gamelan orchestras and rapid-fire choruses known as "monkey chants."

World music has proved so popular at the Tokyo branch of the retailer Tower Records that Keith Cahoon, Tower's managing director for the Far East, has split the section in two. One is devoted to East-West fusion styles like those recorded by DaDaWa, Colonial Cousins, and Asia Beat. The other is for purist, traditional genres like the droning Korean pansori and hypnotic dogri love songs from India's Jammu hills.

Despite the "surge in interest in blending indigenous music with contemporary Western forms, some producers warn against the hit-and-run mentality that exploits the sound yet ignores the spirit of ethnic music.

"Using these ancient styles as sound effects only is a very superficial approach to the music," said Sam Mills, an American who co-produced the rock-laced album "Real Sugar" with the Bengali singer Paban Das Baul for Britain-based Real World Records.

Others argue for the purist approach. "If we do not retain undiluted indigenous forms, they will eventually be blended out of existence," said Anil Seghal, a consultant for India's Zee Music. Mr. Seghal said that the record label would soon be broadcasting pure indigenous music like Jammu's dogri and tribal chants from Uttar Pradesh state over Zee's television network, with coverage in Britain, South Africa and much of Asia.

Blekbala Mujik is an Australian aboriginal group that draws on both traditional instruments like the digeridoo, with its low-pitched whine, and wooden clap sticks as well as the electric guitar and electronic synthesizer.

Other popular performers whose styles include elements of ethnic music include Modern Dog and Joey Boy.

"Sometimes people complain about aborigines playing rock, but the last thing we want to do is to sit in the dirt and play nothing but the old songs," said Richard Micallef, head of music for the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association.

SCONTINVEST EQUITY FUND
Fonds commun de placement luxembourgeois à compartiments multiples
Société de Gestion:
Scontinvest Equity Fund Management Company S.A.
18, Boulevard Royal, L-2449 Luxembourg

INFORMATION ET AVIS AUX PORTEURS DE PARTS

AVENANT N° 1 AU REGLEMENT DE GESTION DU 5/12/1995

Article 5. "Souscription de parts du Fonds", à ajouter:
"Le Conseil d'Administration de la Société de Gestion est autorisé à procéder à la division des parts de chaque compartiment".

Luxembourg, le 7 mai 1997.

La Société de Gestion — *La Banque Dépositaire*
Scontinvest Equity Fund Management Company S.A. — *Discount Bank S.A.*

DIVISION PAR DIX DES PARTS DES COMPARTIMENTS :
1) SCONTINVEST EQUITY FUND - NORTH-AMERICA EQUITY
2) SCONTINVEST EQUITY FUND - "EUROVAL" EUROPEAN EQUITY

Lors de sa séance du 29 mai 1997, le Conseil d'Administration de Scontinvest Equity Fund Management Company S.A., a décidé, conformément à l'article 5 du règlement de gestion, de diviser par dix les parts des compartiments Scontinvest Equity Funds - North-America Equity et Scontinvest Equity Fund - "Euroval" European Equity. Cette opération aura pour effet de multiplier par dix le nombre de parts en circulation et de diviser par dix la valeur nette d'inventaire par part de ces compartiments.
Les certificats sont échangeables à partir du 30 mai 1997 auprès de Discount Bank S.A., 18, Boulevard Royal, L 2449 Luxembourg.
La division sera effective le 30 mai 1997.

Le Conseil d'Administration

NOTICE OF WORKS CONCESSION
(Directive 93/37/CEE)

1 - CONTRACTING AUTHORITY
Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Nice Côte d'Azur
20, Boulevard Carabacel - 06000 - NICE (France)
Tel: (33) 04 93 13 75 05 Fax: (33) 04 93 13 75 00

2A - LOCATION OF WORKS PERFORMANCE
NICE - COTE D'AZUR AIRPORT - NICE - 06200 - FRANCE

2B - PURPOSE OF THE CONCESSION OF WORKS, NATURE AND SCOPE OF SERVICES:
Reference of the project: A.E.I.
Purpose of the concession of works: Appointment of the beneficiary of an agreement of temporary occupation of a government-owned land within the airport area. The beneficiary will be responsible for financing, building and operating a real estate complex of 50,000 square meters intended to accommodate trade shows at the Nice Côte d'Azur Airport, and a parking of 25,000 square meters.

3A - DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS: June 24, 1997 at 4 P.M.

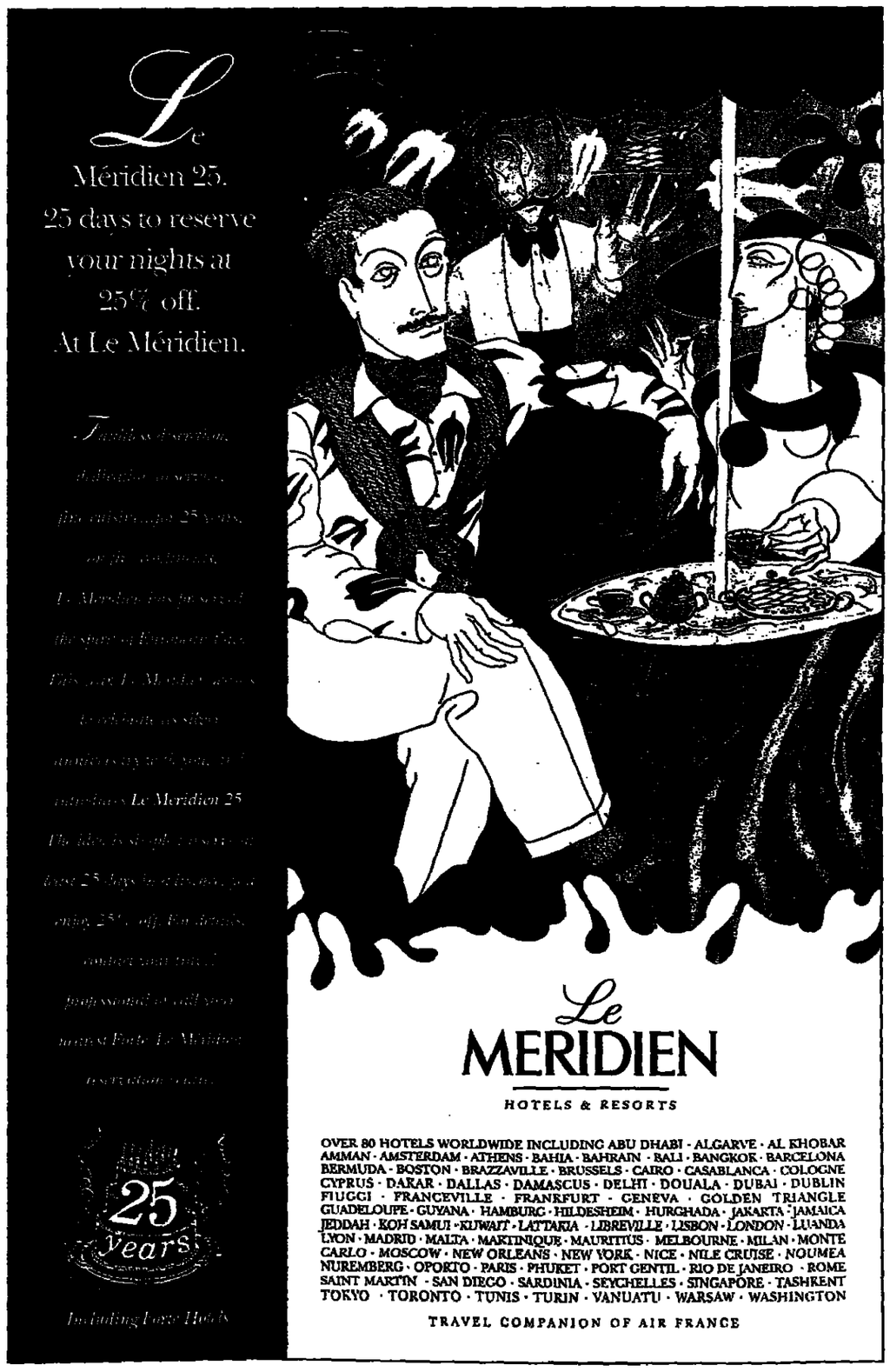
3B - ADDRESS TO FORWARD APPLICATIONS:
Refer to 1 above - Direction des Grands Projets d'Equipements
Reference to indicate on the envelope. "A.E.I. - Appel à candidatures"

3C - LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE APPLICATIONS MUST BE DRAFTED
French

4 - PERSONAL, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS TO BE MET BY THE CANDIDATES
The candidates, which can submit their applications either alone or in a group, will have to establish that they have financial capabilities as well as economic and commercial operating capabilities.
The financial capability of the candidate will have to be established by submitting relevant bank references, balance sheets and corporate accounts of the last three years or any other equivalent document as well as a list of similar transactions, in the establishment of which the candidate was involved.
The operating capability will have to be established by submitting references in the area of operations of showrooms or trade shows.
These references will have to be as precise as possible. They must indicate and describe achievements and projects from a commercial and economic viewpoint.
The candidate must be in order with its tax, tax related and social security obligations.
The candidates which do not meet the conditions mentioned in Articles 24 a), b), c), e), f) and g) of Directive no. 93/37/CEE could be excluded from participating in the selection procedures.

5 - CONTRACT AWARD CRITERIA:
The selection procedures with respect to candidates to be chosen will be carried out in two phases. First, the shortlisting phase according to which the list of candidates authorised to submit a tender will be approved. Second, the final selection phase with respect to the tenders submitted by the candidates accepted.
Selection criteria of the candidates during the shortlisting phase
▶ technical value (know-how and references)
▶ financial guarantees
Selection criteria of the tenders for the contract award
▶ technical and commercial value of the tender
▶ financial conditions of the offer

6 - OTHER INFORMATION:
Documents presenting the project and the major rights and obligations of the candidates are made available to the candidates at the address indicated in 3 above in exchange for a check of FF. 5,000 as guarantee. This check will be cashed if the candidate does not submit an acceptable application. The documents supplement the information given in this notice.
Meetings to present the project and visits at the site can be arranged.
Additional information can be requested in writing to the contracting authority at the address mentioned in 3 above.



EUROPE

LVMH Signals Will To Battle Guinness

Bloomberg News

PARIS — The chairman of LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA said Thursday he would press ahead with his plan to buy Guinness PLC's stakes in his company's beverage units, saying the deal would raise shareholder value.

Bernard Arnault said Wednesday that LVMH would exercise an option to buy Guinness's stake in LVMH's beverage-distribution businesses and the brewer's 34 percent of Moet Hennessy, LVMH's cognac and champagne unit.

The move could derail Guinness's planned $20 billion merger with Grand Metropolitan PLC, which LVMH opposes.

Guinness and Grand Met contend that LVMH cannot legally exercise its right to repurchase Guinness's stake in the beverage units, and analysts have predicted a protracted legal battle.

[A Guinness spokesman said the company had no plans to meet with Mr. Arnault to discuss the legality of the buyback plan, AFX News reported from London.]

Mr. Arnault told shareholders a wholly owned beverage operation would raise LVMH's earnings, as would his original plan to merge the three companies' drinks businesses into the world's largest liquor company. That proposal, which was rebuffed, remains open, he said.

"If we oppose this merger, it's because it would lead to a conglomerate that regroups wine and spirit activities, fast food and packaged food, which have no coherence," he said. "We've made a proposal to combine wine and spirits, creating a world leader. It seems the best way to unleash shareholder value."

Mr. Arnault would lose his executive board seat if the two British companies combined, and LVMH's 14.2 percent stake in Guinness would be reduced to 6.6 percent of the proposed combined company, GMG Brands.

Analysts have seen the growing rift with Guinness as a sign that LVMH could sell its stake in GMG and its 66 percent of Moet Hennessy, where sales are lagging.

Mr. Arnault also said that LVMH's duty-free unit, DFS, of which it bought 58 percent for $2.47 billion in October, would have a positive effect on operating earnings this year. In January, LVMH said the DFS purchase would have a negative effect on net income.

LVMH shares closed unchanged at 1,389 francs ($242.43) in Paris, while GrandMet shares closed in London at 573 pence ($9.39), down 2, and Guinness eased 1 to 579.

Czech Bank Warns on Pay

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PRAGUE — Stock prices tumbled as the central bank warned Thursday that it might have to tighten monetary policy if the government and labor unions did not agree on efforts to curb wage growth.

The central bank's statement came a day after the government unveiled measures to help cut the Czech Republic's trade and current-account deficits, including additional budget cuts and a freeze on wages in the government and at state-owned companies. Benchmark stocks fell 2.5 percent, with the main market index losing 12.40 points to close at 490.10.

The Czech koruna has dropped 7.5 percent since Monday, when the central bank expanded the currency's fluctuation band and opened the way to a possible devaluation. Fears that the currency would fall further sent consumers into a buying panic, and retailers reacted by raising prices of imported goods by as much as 20 percent. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

Trading Pulp Electronically

Sweden's Futures Exchange Operator Moves In on London

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — There was no ribbon-cutting, there were no traders in colorful coats shouting and gesticulating. Instead, at 2 P.M. Thursday, Pulpex, a futures market for wood pulp, flickered noiselessly to life on computer screens across Europe.

Its silent awakening, analysts said, marked an important step forward for electronic exchanges trying to gain ground against traditional systems based on trading floors.

Financial deregulation should bring new opportunities to create markets worldwide.

Per Larsson said he regretted that Thursday's opening had produced no glossy photographs of traders in bright garb grouped beneath a Pulpex sign. "Our system is a lot less visual than that," said Mr. Larsson, the chief executive of OM Gruppen AB, the operator of Sweden's options market and Pulpex's founder.

Pulpex will give buyers and sellers of the main ingredient for paper a second market in which to manage the risk of price fluctuation. Finland's Futures and Options Exchange began trading pulp futures four months ago.

OM Gruppen operates exchanges and clearing organizations, and offers information and network services. What the company lacks in presence it makes up for in momentum. In the 12 years since the company sprang to life as the world's first for-profit financial exchange company, its market value has soared to 5 billion Swedish kronor ($650.9 million).

"Potentially the market for their technology is enormous," said Johan Trocme, an analyst for Union Bank of Switzerland in London. "You have only to look at how many exchanges still rely on people wearing funny pink and purple jackets and making strange hand signals for a living to see it."

In its competition with traditional exchanges, analysts say OM has two advantages — its technological expertise and its status as a publicly traded corporation instead of a member-owned exchange.

"OM is not a conservative cartel designed to protect its members' interests," Per Afrell of SBC Warburg in Stockholm said. "Instead of waiting for new members, it went out and recruited them in a way no one had ever heard of doing before."

It also avoided the common condition of a market dominated by a few large players by throwing the door open to small brokers at the outset.

OM ranks as Europe's third-largest options exchange, behind only the options markets in Switzerland and Holland. Last year it made 326 million kronor in operating income on revenue of 610 million kronor.

Next year, OM will be working on its biggest contract yet — a 200 million-kronor deal that will link 500 buyers and sellers of electricity in California, in the first deregulated U.S. market for electric power.

EU Telecom Competition: A Mixed Card

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday that it expected to receive more complaints from telephone companies and multinational customers because few countries are ready to meet its January 1998 deadline for full telecommunications competition.

Britain, Sweden, Finland and Denmark are the only countries in the 15-nation European Union whose telecommunications markets are fully competitive, according to the Union's executive agency.

The remaining 11 have promised to meet either that deadline or alternative timetables agreed to individually with the commission.

While saying "satisfactory progress" had been made across Europe, Karel van Miert, the EU's competition commissioner, said the European Commission was "expecting more complaints to come over the coming months."

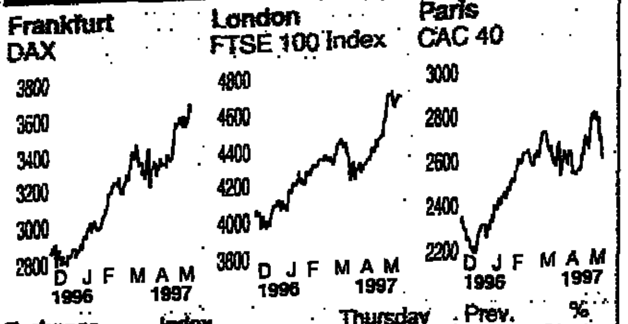
Telecommunications Commissioner Martin Bangemann said only Britain and the three Scandinavian members were are already in the "Champions' League," a reference to the European soccer competition. He said Germany, France and the Netherlands were in the "first division," while Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Austria were at "second division" level.

The remaining countries — Belgium, Greece, Spain and Portugal — are so far behind in implementing telecommunications legislation that Mr. Bangemann rated them as "nonleague" players.

The commission said the complaints it had received so far related particularly to terms set by dominant telephone companies for rival operators to connect calls to their networks.

"The interconnection terms are absolutely vital to get the market working," Mr. Van Miert said. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	804.62	804.95	-0.04
Brussels	BEL-20	2,257.78	2,258.12	-0.02
Frankfurt	DAX	Closed	3,636.42	-
Copenhagen	Stock Market	574.96	576.99	-0.35
Helsinki	HEX General	3,071.24	3,066.34	+0.16
Oslo	OBX	638.41	640.10	-0.26
London	FTSE 100	4,672.30	4,677.50	-0.11
Madrid	Stock Exchange	556.14	564.66	-1.54
Milan	MIBTEL	12238	12242	-0.03
Paris	CAC 40	2,579.24	2,583.17	-0.15
Stockholm	SX 16	3,013.48	3,043.15	-0.97
Vienna	ATX	Closed	1,304.59	-
Zurich	SPI	3,248.80	3,250.39	-0.05

Source: Telekurs · International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Britain's** trade deficit fell to a lower-than-expected £671 million ($1.1 billion) in March from a revised figure of £771 million in February, according to official figures.
- **ING Groep NV,** a Dutch bank and insurer, said first-quarter net profit rose 21.1 percent, to 891 million guilders ($467.1 million), as strong financial markets and the acquisition of Barings PLC raised banking earnings.
- **Eurotunnel Group,** the debt-burdened operator of the Channel Tunnel, said it could make a net profit in 2005 and pay its first dividend in 2006 if investors backed an £8.5 billion debt reorganization. The company said it expected to post a loss of 2.18 billion French francs ($379.3 million) in 1997, compared with 6.01 billion francs last year.
- **Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.** will invest $75 million in its Polish unit, **Key C. Debica SA,** and move some production there from its French and German operations.
- **Zurich Group** will join a group of investors, including **J.P. Morgan and Co.** and **Swedbank AB,** to acquire a stake of 24 percent to 29.9 percent in Poland's **Bank Handlowy.**
- **SGS-Thomson Microelectronics NV,** Europe's second-largest semiconductor company, bought a majority-stake in **Metaflow Technologies Inc.,** an American developer of microchips for an undisclosed amount.
- **Royal Copenhagen A/S's** first-half pretax profit rose 14.5 percent, to 96.3 million kroner ($14.9 million), as sales of its glass and porcelain products increased. *AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters*

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, May 29
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam
AEX index: 804.62 Previous: 804.95

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	36.40	35.70	36	36.20
Aegon	143.20	140.10	142.10	142.80
Ahold	146.90	145.30	146.40	145.80
Akzo Nobel	269.50	265.10	268.40	266
Baan Co.	118.40	115.40	115.40	118.20
Bols Wess cva	37.10	36.60	36.70	37.20
CSM cva	101	98	100.10	101.50
Dordtsche Pet	388.90	387	388	388.50
DSM	194.70	193	194	194
Elsevier	33.10	32.50	32.90	32.60
Fortis Amev	82.20	79.40	80.50	82.30
Getronics	68	67.30	67.30	67.90
G-Broc cva	65.30	64.60	64.90	65
Hagemeyer	95.40	92.50	94.50	92.10
Heineken	328	325	326.50	327.30
Hoogovens cva	97.20	96.50	96.80	97.20
Hunt Douglas	171	167.50	170.50	169.70
ING Group	89.20	86.30	86.90	88.20
KLM	56.30	55.10	55.50	55.60
KNP BT	39.90	39.40	39.70	39.90
KPN	68.80	67.10	68.30	67.50
Nedlloyd Gp	47.60	46.80	47.40	47.50
Nutricia	302	296.10	300	298
Oce Grinten	257	249.10	256	250.50
Philips Elec	108.90	107	108.90	108
Polygram	94.50	92.70	93.40	93
Randstad Hdg	194.80	193	193.50	194.50
Robeco	173.60	172.60	173.50	174
Rodamco	61.20	60.80	61	61.10
Rolinco	176.70	176.40	176.40	177
Rorento	110.10	110	110.10	110.10
Royal Dutch	376.40	373.50	376.30	375.40
Unilever cva	378.70	376	376.50	379
Vendex Intl	110	109	109.30	109.90
VNU	43.60	42.70	43.60	43
Wolters Kl cva	236.20	233	234.90	235.50

Bangkok
SET index: 558.17 Previous: 562.83

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	170	169	170	172
Bangkok Bk F	214	204	208	214
Krung Thai Bk	28.50	27.50	28.25	28.25
PTT Explor	320	306	306	314
Siam Cement F	526	514	516	528
Siam Com Bk F	130	126	130	130
Telecomasia	29	28.50	29	28.75
Thai Airways	39	37	38.25	37.75
Thai Farm Bk F	123	119	122	122
Utd Comm	114	108	108	115

Bombay
Sensex 30 index: 3724.11 Previous: 3685.31

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bajaj Auto	855	846	851.25	850.25
Hindust Lever	1093.50	1055	1090	1060.75
Hindust Petlm	426	422.50	426	426
Ind Dev Bk	93	91.50	92.50	92.50
ITC	432	426	431	427.25
Mahanagar Tel	285	277.50	285	283.50
Reliance Ind	296.25	281	296.25	283
State Bk India	305.75	298.75	305.50	300.75
Steel Authority	18.50	17.25	18.50	18.75
Tata Eng Loco	396.50	391	395	395.25

Brussels
BEL-20 index: 2257.78 Previous: 2258.12

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	16150	15925	15975	16125
Barco Ind	6380	6310	6350	6340
BBL	9470	9360	9470	9440
CBR	3340	3265	3290	3355
Colruyt	14500	14275	14275	14350
Delhaize Lion	1750	1710	1740	1720
Electrabel	7920	7860	7910	7900
Electrafina	3575	3530	3575	3570
Fortis AG	7040	6860	6950	6980
Gevaert	3220	3170	3170	3200
GBL	5650	5600	5640	5630
Gen Banque	14250	14100	14100	14250
Kredietbank	14550	14400	14525	14475
Petrofina	12500	12325	12400	12350
Powerfin	5000	4960	4990	4975
Royale Belge	10050	9950	10000	9990
Soc Gen Belg	3280	3250	3270	3255
Solvay	21700	21475	21500	21625
Tractebel	15525	15425	15525	15425
UCB	97050	95600	95600	95700

Copenhagen
Stock index: 574.96 Previous: 576.99

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	306	301	305.31	305
Carlsberg B	391	390	391	389.72
Codan Fors	910	899	900	915
Danisco	400	396	396	399
Den Danske Bk	621	615	618	618
D/S Svendbrg B	340000	340000	340000	345000
D/S 1912 B	235000	233000	234000	235000
FLS Ind B	1060	1048.95	1048.95	1058.68
Kob Lufthavne	721	709	715	709
Nvo Nordisk B	702.50	695	701	700
Sophus Ber B	895	886	889	888.11
Tele Danmk B	326	319	321.32	324
Tryg Baltica	364	357	358	361
Unidanmark A	344	340	340	344

Markets Closed

The Frankfurt, Sao Paulo and Vienna stock markets were closed Thursday for a holiday.

Helsinki
HEX General index: 3071.24 Previous: 3066.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Enso A	46.50	46.50	46.50	46.50
Huhtamaki I	228	225	227	227
Kemira	51.20	50.50	50.50	51.50
Kesko	73.50	73	73	73.50
Merita A	17.80	17.50	17.70	17.60
Metra B	146	145	145.50	145
Metsa-Serla B	41	40.30	40.40	40.50
Neste	137.50	134.50	137	135
Nokia A	349	344.50	348.50	346
Orion-Yhtymae	204	201	203.50	204
Outokumpu A	102.20	101.10	102	102
UPM-Kymmene	120	117.50	118.30	119
Valmet	93.40	92.50	93.30	92.50

Hong Kong
Hang Seng: 14416.57 Previous: 14556.48

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.85	8.65	8.70	8.85
Bk East Asia	28.30	27.80	27.85	28.35
Cathay Pacific	11.75	11.45	11.70	11.65
Cheung Kong	79.50	77.50	78	78.75
CK Infrastruct	24.80	24.30	24.80	24.80
China Light	38.70	37.70	38.10	38.60
Citic Pacific	45	43.90	43.90	44.90
Dao Heng Bk	40	39.70	39.80	40.20
First Pacific	10.25	10.05	10.15	10.20
Hang Lung Dev	14.80	14.60	14.70	14.85
Hang Seng Bk	91.75	90	90.50	92
Henderson Inv	8.85	8.75	8.80	8.85
Henderson Ld	73.75	72	73	74.25
HK China Gas	13.10	12.75	13.10	12.85
HK Electric	27.80	27.50	27.55	27.80
HK Telecomm	16.90	16.40	16.70	17
Hopewell Hdgs	4.40	4.20	4.33	4.23
HSBC Hdgs	229	226	227	229
Hutchison Wh	63.50	62.50	63.25	63.25
Hysan Dev	25.75	25	25.30	25.75
Johnson El Hdg	22.40	21.90	22.40	21.90
Kerry Props	19.80	19.40	19.40	20
New World Dev	48.70	47.60	48.50	49.10
Oriental Press	2.70	2.63	2.65	2.65
Pearl Oriental	2.85	2.75	2.78	2.83
SHK Props	94.25	92.25	92.50	94.75
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.15	5.05	5.10	5.20
Sino Land Co.	8.40	8.25	8.35	8.30
Sth China Post	7.25	7.10	7.25	7.10
Swire Pac A	63.75	63	63.75	63.75
Wharf Hdgs	34.50	33.70	33.90	34.50
Wheelock	19	18.65	18.85	19.10

Jakarta
Composite index: 689.50 Previous: 672.50

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	6625	6400	6575	6375
Bk Intl Indon	1975	1925	1975	1925
Bk Negara	1600	1550	1600	1575
Gudang Garm	10400	10000	10400	9975
Indocement	3075	3025	3000	3050
Indofood	5400	5100	5350	5075
Indosat	7125	7000	7125	7000
Sampoerna HM	9600	9075	9550	9325
Semen Gresik	5925	5600	5900	5525
Telekomunikasi	4075	3925	4050	3900

Johannesburg
All Market: 7074.68 Previous: 7048.81

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amalgamtd Bks	28	27.75	27.90	28
AngloAm Coal	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	295
AngloAm-Corp	262	260.50	262	260.50
AngloAm Gold	304	302	302	301
AngloAm Ind	189.50	187	189	187
AVMIN	16.15	16.10	16.10	16.15
Barlow	47.25	46.45	47.25	46
C.G. Smith	25.05	24.50	24.70	24.50
De Beers	157.25	156.50	157	156.75
Driefontein	38.85	38.50	38.50	38.50
Fst Natl Bk	34.85	32.75	34.75	32.75
Gencor	20	19.80	19.90	19.90
GFSA	114.50	114	114	114.25
Imperial Hdgs	56.75	56.25	56.25	55.75
Ingwe Coal	30.20	30.10	30.10	30
Iscor	3.03	3	3.02	2.99
Johnnies Indl	57.25	56.50	57.25	56.50
Liberty Hdgs	350	348.50	349	348.75
Liberty Life	127.50	126.75	127.50	127
LibLife Strat	16.85	16.55	16.80	16.75
Minorco	102	100.25	101.50	100.25
Nampak	17.60	17.40	17.60	17.35
Nedcor	87.75	87.50	87.75	87.75
Rembrandt Gp	46	45.75	46	46
Richemont	62.25	61.50	61.75	62
Rust Platinum	75	72	74.50	70.25
SA Breweries	127	126.25	127	125.75
Samancor	48.50	47.30	48.50	47.30
Sasol	56	55.25	55.75	55.25
SBIC	205.25	204	205.25	202
Tiger Oats	76.50	75.50	76.50	75.50

Kuala Lumpur
Composite: 1105.62 Previous: 1096.32

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMMB Hdgs	16.30	15.90	15.90	16.30
Genting	13.60	13.30	13.40	13.60
Mal Banking	26.25	25.50	26.25	26
Mal Intl Ship F	5.85	5.75	5.80	5.80
Petronas Gas	8.95	8.75	8.95	8.70
Proton	13.20	12.90	13.10	12.90
Public Bk	4.10	3.78	4.02	3.92
Renong	3.58	3.48	3.58	3.48
Resorts World	8.65	8.25	8.30	8.60
Rothmans PM	26.75	25.75	26.50	26
Sime Darby	8.40	8.10	8.40	8.15
Telekom Mal	19	18.10	18.80	18.10
Tenaga	11.60	11.30	11.50	11.60
Utd Engineers	21	19.80	20.60	20.10
YTL	9	8.90	8.95	8.95

London
FT-SE 100: 4672.30 Previous: 4677.50

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	9.25	9	9.13	9.41
Allied Domecq	4.51	4.44	4.45	4.45
Anglian Water	6.82	6.77	6.82	6.79
Argos	6.15	6.08	6.09	6.10
Asda Group	1.20	1.18	1.19	1.19
Assoc Br Foods	5.71	5.65	5.71	5.68
BAA	5.37	5.28	5.32	5.29
Barclays	12.50	12.15	12.22	12.55
Bass	8.07	7.95	8.07	8.01
BAT Ind	5.67	5.55	5.60	5.59
Bank Scotland	4.02	3.92	3.98	4.01
Blue Circle	4.30	4.23	4.30	4.29
BOC Group	10.30	10.10	10.30	10.16
Boots	7.28	7.22	7.27	7.23
BPB Ind	3.49	3.43	3.48	3.45
Brit Aerosp	12.55	12.27	12.55	12.27
Brit Airways	7.19	7.09	7.18	7.10
BG	2.07	2.01	2.04	2.01
Brit Land	6.02	5.91	6	5.93
Brit Petm	7.93	7.32	7.35	7.37
BSkyB	6	5.89	5.92	5.92
Brit Steel	1.54	1.52	1.54	1.53
Brit Telecom	4.50	4.40	4.48	4.48
BTR	2.07	1.95	1.97	2.05
Burmah Castrol	10.70	10.34	10.64	10.35
Burton Gp	1.38	1.35	1.37	1.36
Cable Wireless	5.04	4.90	5	4.96
Cadbury Schw	5.52	5.44	5.50	5.49
Carlton Comm	5.24	5.06	5.22	5.08
Comml Union	7.02	6.90	6.92	7.12
Compass Gp	6.82	6.72	6.80	6.73
Courtaulds	3.42	3.35	3.38	3.38
Dixons	4.78	4.72	4.74	4.75
Electrocomponents	4.05	4.01	4.04	4.04
EMI Group	11.98	11.70	11.84	11.76
Energy Group	5.60	5.47	5.53	5.58
Enterprise Oil	6.75	6.63	6.63	6.85
Fam Colonial	1.64	1.63	1.63	1.64
Genl Accident	9.40	9.16	9.23	9.40
GEC	3.55	3.50	3.53	3.56
GKN	10.55	10.20	10.45	10.15
Glaxo Wellcome	12.55	12.24	12.52	12.26
Granada Gp	8.90	8.75	8.85	8.84
Grand Met	5.80	5.73	5.73	5.85
GRE	3	2.90	2.98	2.93
Greenalls Gp	4.80	4.73	4.73	4.77
Guinness	5.81	5.74	5.78	5.79
GUS	6.62	6.49	6.59	6.54
Hays	5.59	5.52	5.59	5.55
HSBC Hldgs	18.82	17.96	18.09	18.10
ICI	8.46	8.09	8.16	8.14
Impl Tobacco	3.87	3.82	3.86	3.94
Kingfisher	7.23	7.14	7.21	7.25
Ladbroke	2.42	2.33	2.36	2.37
Land Sec	9.27	9.05	9.22	9.08
Lasmo	2.50	2.45	2.46	2.49
Legal Genl Grp	4.73	4.60	4.61	4.76
Lloyds TSB Gp	6.40	6.25	6.32	6.41
LucasVarity	2	1.95	1.97	1.99
Marks Spencer	5.18	5.05	5.14	5.09
MEPC	5.17	5.07	5.14	5.12
Mercury Asset	14.73	14.20	14.65	14.40
National Grid	2.30	2.26	2.26	2.26
Natl Power	5.48	5.33	5.48	5.40
NatWest	7.82	7.64	7.69	7.82
Next	7.52	7.31	7.38	7.32
Orange	2.09	2.07	2.09	2.08
P&O	6.47	6.30	6.39	6.37
Pearson	7.28	7.21	7.27	7.23
Pilkington	1.28	1.25	1.28	1.25
PowerGen	7.01	6.90	6.98	6.97
Premier Farnell	4.77	4.71	4.74	4.77
Prudential	6.35	6.20	6.30	6.38
Railtrack	6.39	6.23	6.31	6.36
Rank Group	4.41	4.33	4.36	4.35
Reckitt Colm	8.73	8.63	8.65	8.65
Redland	3.25	3.18	3.23	3.22
Reed Intl	6.17	6	6.07	6.07
Rentokil Initial	2.37	2.33	2.36	2.33
Reuters Hdgs	6.97	6.85	6.94	6.91
Rexam	3.03	2.90	2.90	3
RMC Group	9.17	9	9.16	9.08
Rolls Royce	2.62	2.40	2.53	2.45
Royal Bk Scot	6.27	6.15	6.15	6.33
RTZ reg	10.77	10.58	10.60	10.73
Royal & Sun All	4.72	4.62	4.64	4.77
Safeway	3.63	3.50	3.61	3.55
Sainsbury	3.52	3.45	3.49	3.47
Schroders	17.44	17.25	17.27	17.27
Scot Newcastle	7.02	6.91	7.01	6.94
Scot Power	3.95	3.61	3.91	3.86
Securicor	2.92	2.90	2.90	2.91
Severn Trent	7.78	7.68	7.73	7.73
Shell Transp R	12.22	12.08	12.15	12.15
Siebe	9.66	9.50	9.66	9.52
Smith Nephew	1.79	1.75	1.79	1.75
SmithKline	10.82	10.62	10.72	10.67
Smiths Ind	7.90	7.71	7.80	7.66
Sthern Elec	4.13	4.07	4.08	4.10
Stagecoach	6.64	6.51	6.55	6.46
Stand Charter	9.98	9.78	9.92	10.02
Tate & Lyle	4.52	4.48	4.50	4.50
Tesco	3.81	3.72	3.78	3.71
Thames Water	6.83	6.73	6.75	6.80
3i Group	5.08	5.02	5.05	5.08
TI Group	5.67	5.54	5.62	5.57
Tomkins	2.70	2.62	2.65	2.67
Unilever	16.80	16.60	16.65	16.79
Utd Assurance	4.92	4.85	4.88	4.94
Utd News	7.97	7.76	7.95	7.78
Utd Utilities	7.10	6.90	7.10	7.10
Vendome Lx uts	5.07	4.96	4.96	5.06
Vodafone	2.73	2.68	2.72	2.70
Whitbread	8.05	7.93	8.01	7.96
Williams Hdgs	3.10	3.06	3.09	3.09
Wolseley	4.75	4.70	4.73	4.71
WPP Group	2.42	2.38	2.39	2.41
Zeneca	18.92	18.60	18.75	18.63

Madrid
Bolsa index: 556.14 Previous: 564.86

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	25300	24810	25300	25180
ACESA	1875	1815	1820	1860
Aguas Barcelon	5950	5850	5880	5900
Argentaria	7450	7290	7390	7400
BBV	10190	10080	10100	10200
Banesto	1605	1535	1570	1595
Bankinter	25250	24480	24960	25340
Bco Centro Hisp	4925	4790	4790	4940
Bco Popular	32500	31200	31300	32180
Bco Santander	12880	12500	12640	12640
CEPSA	4950	4860	4880	4980
Continente	2840	2760	2780	2805
Corp Mapfre	7940	7780	7850	7940
Endesa	11750	11300	11370	11650
FECSA	1300	1260	1275	1290
Gas Natural	29500	28700	28790	29300
Iberdrola	1850	1780	1785	1860
Pryca	2920	2805	2910	2860
Repsol	6150	6060	6110	6070
Sevillana Elec	1420	1390	1395	1405
Tabacalera	7580	7200	7300	7470
Telefonica	4425	4290	4290	4430
Union Fenosa	1310	1285	1300	1310
Valenc Cement	2125	2050	2090	2110

Manila
PSE index: 2758.61 Previous: 2722.67

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala B	19	18	18.75	18.25
Ayala Land	20	19.25	20	19.25
Bk Philip Isl	160	154	160	156
C&P Homes	10	9.70	9.80	9.60
Manila Elec A	93.50	91	93	91
Metro Bank	600	585	585	595
Petron	7.40	7	7.20	7.10
PCIBank	260	252.50	255	260
Phil Long Dist	780	765	770	765
San Miguel B	80	76	79.50	80
SM Prime Hdg	7.50	7.30	7.40	7.30

Mexico
Bolsa index: 3924.60 Previous: 3906.25

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	46.00	45.60	45.95	46.00
Banacci B	17.16	17.10	17.14	16.98
Cemex CPO	28.70	28.50	28.55	28.60
Cifra C	12.40	12.26	12.40	12.20
Emp Moderna	39.60	39.00	39.00	39.60
Gpo Carso A1	45.45	45.00	45.00	45.45
Gpo F Bcomer	1.72	1.71	1.72	1.72
Gpo Fin Inbursa	27.90	27.50	27.50	27.90
Kimb Clark Mex	28.10	27.85	27.85	28.20
Televisa CPO	113.00	109.90	113.00	109.40
TelMex L	17.34	17.18	17.34	17.18

Milan
MIB Telematico: 12238.00 Previous: 12242.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	11100	10900	10900	10970
Bca Comm Ital	3445	3350	3370	3410
Bca Fideuram	4515	4430	4450	4430
Bca di Roma	1245	1227	1227	1229
Benetton	23650	22900	23450	23100
Credito Italiano	2550	2505	2545	2530
Edison	8100	7970	7970	8030
ENI	8750	8650	8740	8690
Fiat	5660	5590	5620	5605
Generali Assic	29200	28900	28950	28900
IMI	15135	14940	15120	15100
INA	2415	2380	2415	2400
Italgas	5320	5230	5295	5270
Mediaset	7375	7265	7285	7395
Mediobanca	9900	9680	9680	9825
Montedison	1050	1037	1043	1043
Olivetti	505	495	495	500
Parmalat	2475	2405	2410	2415
Pirelli	3655	3600	3625	3605
RAS	13390	13100	13155	13280
Rolo Banca	17700	17400	17400	17650
S Paolo Torino	10645	10630	10645	10645
Stet	8685	8560	8615	8655
Telecom Italia	4720	4640	4700	4680
TIM	5080	5005	5045	5025

Montreal
Industrials index: 3217.01 Previous: 3224.89

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	43.10	43.10	43.10	43.40
Cdn Tire A	25.15	25.15	25.15	25¼
Cdn Util A	35.35	35.15	35.15	35.30
CT Finl Svc	35½	35½	35½	35½
Gaz Metro	17.45	17.35	17.45	17½
Gt-West Lifeco	27.55	27½	27.55	27.30
Imasco	39¼	38.55	38.55	39.15
Investors Grp	28¼	28	28.05	28.05
Loblaw Cos	19.05	19	19.05	18.90
Natl Bk Canada	16½	16	16.05	16.45
Power Corp	32	31.60	32	31.60
Power Finl	29.95	29.60	29.85	29¾
Quebecor B	25.70	25.60	25.70	25.65
Rogers Comm B	7½	7.10	7½	7.20
Royal Bk Cda	60.95	59.80	60.05	60¾

Oslo
OBX index: 638.41 Previous: 640.10

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	130	126.50	130	129
Bergesen Dy A	167	165	166	165.50
Christiania Bk	24.60	24.50	24.50	24.70
Den norske Bk	28.30	28	28	28.20
Elkem	144	142	142.50	143
Hafslund A	44	44	44	44
Kvaerner Asa	418	413	413	417
Norsk Hydro	366	361	361.50	366
Norske Skog A	262	259	262	262
Nycomed A	99	97.50	98	98
Orkla Asa A	635	624	631	626
Petlm GeoSvc	305	301	304	305
Saga Petlm A	143	138	143	142.50
Schibsted	134.50	133	133.50	133
Transocean Off	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	495
Storebrand Asa	47.50	47.20	47.20	47.30

Paris
CAC-40: 2579.24 Previous: 2583.17

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	815	804	809	804
AGF	174.50	167.40	170	175
Air Liquide	910	875	880	892
Alcatel Alsth	636	614	620	631
Axa-UAP	358.60	345.20	347	355
Bancaire	663	640	647	657
BIC	898	843	852	850
BNP	238	231	233.80	233
Canal Plus	1025	996	1005	996
Carrefour	3765	3664	3689	3706
Casino	266.90	258.50	264	263
CCF	255	244	245.90	247.90
Cetelem	630	620	628	627
Christian Dior	892	870	887	876
CLF-Dexia Fran	528	513	518	525
Credit Agricole	1270	1262	1262	1262
Danone	885	866	868	870
Elf-Aquitaine	591	563	576	578
Eridania BS	838	817	821	817
Eurodisney	9.40	9.05	9.20	9.20
Eurotunnel	6.55	6.40	6.45	6.40
Gen. Eaux	744	708	712	735
Havas	408.50	395.10	395.10	402.90
Imetal	789	772	777	789
Lafarge	377	368.10	377	374.50
Legrand	944	919	924	918
L'Oreal	2055	1997	2028	1981
LVMH	1441	1384	1389	1389
Lyon. Eaux	572	564	569	567
Michelin B	324.80	312.30	316.30	325
Paribas A	375.80	367.10	375	368
Pernod Ricard	289.90	279	283	284
Peugeot Cit	600	573	585	593
Pinault-Print	2377	2323	2325	2342
Promodes	2030	1950	2005	1983
Renault	135.80	128.40	129.70	133.10
Rexel	1575	1531	1560	1540
Rh-Poulenc A	191	184.20	187.20	185.50
Sanofi	519	507	512	506
Schneider	289.90	280.70	283	283.50
SEB	1015	996	1005	990
SGS Thomson	485	478.50	484.90	480
Ste Generale	638	616	630	613
Sodexho	2720	2650	2650	2656
St Gobain	809	786	800	790
Suez	298.20	295.10	296.80	296
Synthelabo	689	677	689	685
Thomson CSF	171.80	165.20	168	167
Total B	550	530	536	529
Usinor	88.90	87.25	87.25	86.80
Valeo	344.40	326.50	335	339

Seoul
Composite index: 742.50 Previous: 738.12

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	99900	96000	96000	97800
Daewoo Heavy	7990	7500	7500	7850
Hyundai Eng.	20500	19800	20100	19600
Kia Motors	16800	15800	16200	16000
Korea El Pwr	27400	26400	27000	26100
Korea Exch Bk	6000	5800	5850	5680
Korea Mob Tel	380000	370000	376000	368000
LG Semicon	37900	35400	37900	35100
Pohang Iron St	59900	58000	58600	58600
Samsung Display	46500	44500	45500	44500
Samsung Elec	68900	64500	67300	64500
Shinhan Bank	10800	10500	10600	10400

Singapore
Straits Times: 2067.17 Previous: 2064.36

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	6.50	6.45	6.50	6.40
Cerebos Pac	8.50	8.40	8.40	8.50
City Devlts	13.20	12.80	13.20	13.10
Cycle Carriage	14.50	14.30	14.50	14.40
Dairy Farm Int *	0.73	0.72	0.72	0.73
DBS foreign	18.80	18.10	18.20	18.80
DBS Land	4.94	4.86	4.86	4.86
Fraser & Neave	11.40	11.20	11.40	11.40
HK Land *	2.70	2.68	2.69	2.73
Jard Mathesn *	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90
Jard Strategic *	3.74	3.72	3.72	3.78
Keppel	6.70	6.55	6.65	6.65
Keppel Bank	3.80	3.78	3.80	3.80
Keppel Fels	4.82	4.82	4.82	4.84
Keppel Land	4.24	4.16	4.24	4.20
OCBC foreign	18.30	17.70	17.80	18.40
OS Union Bk F	9.85	9.70	9.85	9.85
Parkway Hdgs	6.70	6.65	6.70	6.60
Sembawang	7.05	6.85	7	7
Sing Air foreign	12.50	12.10	12.40	12.70
Sing Land	7.30	7.25	7.25	7.25
Sing Press F	29.40	28.50	29.40	29.50
Sing Tech Ind	3.98	3.86	3.98	3.96
Sing Telecomm	2.57	2.50	2.53	2.52
Tat Lee Bank	3.38	3.36	3.36	3.32
Utd Industrial	1.15	1.13	1.14	1.14
Utd O'Sea Bk F	15.10	14.70	15	15.10
Wing Tai Hdgs	4.26	4.20	4.20	4.26

*: in U.S. dollars.

Stockholm
SX 16 index: 3013.48 Previous: 3043.15

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA B	103	102	102.50	102.50
ABB A	108.50	105.50	106.50	109
AssiDoman	213	210	211	214
Astra A	129	122.50	127	129
Atlas Copco A	216	207.50	207.50	213
Autoliv	299	295.50	295.50	300.50
Electrolux B	467	460	462.50	467
Ericsson B	274.50	272	273	274
Hennes B	265	258	260.50	260
Incentive A	700	693	695	698
Investor B	391.50	386	387.50	391
MoDo B	247	240	241	247.50
Nordbanken	240	237.50	240	240.50
Pharm/Upjohn	263.50	261	262	263
Sandvik B	207	203	203	205
Scania B	218	212.50	212.50	218
SCA B	167	163.50	164	168.50
S-E Banken A	81.50	80.50	80.50	82
Skandia Fors	280	274	278	275
Skanska B	311	305	311	319
SKF B	182.50	180.50	181	184
Sparbanken A	150	147	149.50	150
Stadshypotek A	191	190	190	190
Stora A	116.50	115	115	115.50
Sv Handles A	208	204	206	207
Volvo B	219	215.50	216	216

Sydney
All Ordinaries: 2590.60 Previous: 2583.20

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.50	8.41	8.50	8.47
ANZ Bking	8.81	8.71	8.73	8.75
BHP	18.60	18.35	18.60	18.39
Boral	4.10	4	4.09	4.04
Brambles Ind.	23.69	23.55	23.58	23.68
CBA	14.46	14.28	14.38	14.50
CC Amatil	15.50	15.35	15.46	15.50
Coles Myer	6.27	5.96	6.07	6.30
Comalco	7.35	7.26	7.28	7.26
CRA	21.80	21.45	21.50	21.80
CSR	4.79	4.68	4.78	4.70
Fosters Brew	2.55	2.51	2.55	2.51
Goodman Fld	1.70	1.67	1.69	1.67
ICI Australia	12.11	11.99	12.11	11.96
Lend Lease	26.05	25.40	26	25.40
MIM Hdgs	1.95	1.91	1.94	1.93
Nat Aust Bank	18.65	18.55	18.55	18.66
Nat Mutual Hdg	1.96	1.94	1.96	1.97
News Corp	5.73	5.66	5.70	5.67
Pacific Dunlop	3.66	3.60	3.65	3.65
Pioneer Intl	4.47	4.43	4.44	4.46
Pub Broadcast	6.95	6.87	6.88	6.93
St George Bank	8.02	7.98	8	8.01
WMC	8.52	8.42	8.42	8.47
Westpac Bking	7.21	7.09	7.12	7.20
Woodside Pet	11.28	11.15	11.23	11.18
Woolworths	4.08	4.03	4.05	4.09

Taipei
Stock Market index: 7997.65 Previous: 8058.46

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cathay Life Ins	149	148	148	148
Chang Hwa Bk	117.50	114	114.50	117
Chiao Tung Bk	68.50	67.50	68	67.50
China Developmt	116.50	115	115	116
China Steel	29.80	29.20	29.20	29.60
First Bank	116	114	114.50	115.50
Formosa Plastic	73	70	70	71
Hua Nan Bk	115.50	111	112	115
Intl Comm Bk	66.50	65	65	66
Nan Ya Plastics	77	74.50	74.50	74.50
Shin Kong Life	89.50	88	89.50	88.50
Taiwan Semi	122	116	117	116
Tatung	56.50	55.50	56	55.50
Utd Micro Elec	77	74	74	73
Utd World Chin	68	67	68	67.50

Tokyo
Nikkei 225: 20312.23 Previous: 20351.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1210	1190	1210	1210
All Nippon Air	772	752	765	771
Amway	4440	4390	4400	4390
Asahi Bank	813	795	797	805
Asahi Chem	687	675	684	689
Asahi Glass	1160	1140	1160	1160
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	2110	2070	2080	2080
Bk Yokohama	574	567	574	569
Bridgestone	2710	2650	2680	2680
Canon	3000	2960	2990	2950
Chubu Elec	2130	2100	2110	2130
Chugoku Elec	2080	2050	2070	2070
Dai Nipp Print	2410	2380	2400	2420
Daiei	785	765	776	795
Dai-Ichi Kang	1430	1400	1410	1400
Daiwa Bank	460	446	460	452
Daiwa House	1380	1370	1380	1370
Daiwa Sec	865	851	857	860
DDI	8720a	8640a	8640a	8700a
Denso	2930	2890	2930	2900
East Japan Ry	5670a	5630a	5650a	5680a
Eisai	2360	2320	2360	2350
Fanuc	4300	4230	4300	4270
Fuji Bank	1560	1510	1550	1520
Fuji Photo	4750	4660	4670	4690
Fujitsu	1420	1400	1420	1400
Hachijuni Bk	1120	1100	1100	1100
Hitachi	1280	1240	1280	1260
Honda Motor	3580	3520	3540	3590
IBJ	1450	1410	1430	1400
IHI	463	450	454	465
Itochu	625	617	620	625
Ito-Yokado	6770	6620	6710	6710
JAL	529	520	520	529
Japan Tobacco	8990a	8950a	8970a	8990a
Jusco	4130	3970	4000	4110
Kajima	678	665	673	669
Kansai Elec	2300	2260	2270	2300
Kao	1580	1560	1580	1560
Kawasaki Hvy	530	516	517	535
Kawa Steel	364	349	352	360
Kinki Nipp Ry	706	700	702	701
Kirin Brewery	1170	1150	1170	1160
Kobe Steel	226	221	221	227
Komatsu	900	887	890	896
Kubota	553	545	553	555
Kyocera	8300	8060	8300	8060
Kyushu Elec	2040	2030	2040	2050
LTCB	386	380	380	382
Marubeni	521	515	518	519
Marui	2230	2180	2180	2240
Matsu Comm	3700	3620	3650	3620
Matsu Elec Ind	2240	2190	2210	2230
Matsu Elec Wk	1290	1280	1280	1300
Mitsubishi	1380	1360	1360	1390
Mitsubishi Ch	373	366	371	368
Mitsubishi El	685	675	682	686
Mitsubishi Est	1620	1590	1610	1600
Mitsubishi Hvy	867	860	865	860
Mitsubishi Mat	910	888	894	910
Mitsubishi Tr	1710	1660	1690	1650
Mitsui	1040	1020	1030	1020
Mitsui Fudosn	1470	1450	1470	1460
Mitsui Trust	905	863	886	860
Murata Mfg	4540	4570	4540	4450
NEC	1660	1630	1650	1640
Nikon	2020	1910	2020	1900
Nikko Sec	710	696	698	705
Nintendo	9010	8940	8990	8920
Nipp Express	914	911	912	912
Nippon Oil	603	586	588	603
Nippon Steel	356	350	353	355
Nissan Motor	796	780	780	789
NKK	248	240	242	246
Nomura Sec	1490	1430	1440	1490
NTT	1100b	1050b	1080b	1080b
NTT Data	4360b	4280b	4370b	4300b
Oji Paper	710	697	709	703
Osaka Gas	312	309	309	311
Ricoh	1510	1480	1510	1490
Rohm	11800	11700	11800	11500
Sakura Bk	737	716	723	716
Sankyo	3730	3630	3730	3680
Sanwa Bank	1530	1460	1520	1460
Sanyo Elec	509	505	508	506
Secom	8320	8200	8320	8260
Seibu Rwy	6170	6050	6100	6180
Sekisui Chem	1220	1210	1220	1220
Sekisui House	1200	1190	1200	1210
Seven-Eleven	8580	8470	8480	8560
Sharp	1540	1510	1520	1560
Shikoku El Pwr	2020	1990	1990	2000
Shimizu	699	675	690	704
Shin-etsu Ch	2900	2780	2890	2760
Shiseido	1750	1730	1730	1730
Shizuoka Bk	1180	1160	1160	1170
Softbank	8000	7910	8000	7950
Sony	9920	9780	9840	9900
Sumitomo	1030	1010	1010	1020
Sumitomo Bk	1680	1620	1650	1630
Sumit Chem	497	492	493	498
Sumitomo Elec	1880	1850	1860	1880
Sumit Metal	317	308	311	320
Sumit Trust	1060	1020	1050	1030
Taisho Pharm	3100	3050	3080	3050
Takeda Chem	3010	2970	2980	3000
TDK	9050	8800	9050	8790
Tohoku El Pwr	2040	2010	2030	2040
Tokai Bank	1020	980	994	983
Tokio Marine	1430	1420	1430	1430
Tokyo El Pwr	2290	2230	2250	2290
Tokyo Electron	5750	5300	5710	5220
Tokyo Gas	315	310	313	315
Tokyu Corp.	690	680	685	690
Tonen	1430	1400	1430	1420
Toppan Print	1620	1600	1620	1610
Toray Ind	800	791	795	791
Toshiba	729	712	715	727
Tostem	3200	3130	3200	3140
Toyo Trust	825	795	810	785
Toyota Motor	3520	3440	3450	3520
Yamanouchi	2910	2870	2870	2930

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Toronto
TSE Industrials: 6367.24 Previous: 6389.03

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	25.15	24.60	25.15	24.80
Alberta Energy	33½	33.20	33.20	33½
Alcan Alum	49¼	48.60	49	49
Anderson Expl	18¾	18.20	18.30	18.40
Bk Montreal	53½	52.15	52.15	53.30
Bk Nova Scotia	58.30	56.90	57.10	58.15
Barrick Gold	35¼	34.65	35¼	34.90
BCE	37.40	36.80	36.85	37¼
BC Telecomm	31.40	31.20	31.30	31.40
Biochem Pharm	33½	33	33½	33.30
Bombardier B	28½	27.90	28.45	27.90
Brascan A	35	34.40	34½	35
Cameco	52¼	51.85	52¼	51.80
CIBC	33.90	32.90	32.95	33.70
Cdn Natl Rail	58	57.85	57.90	57.70
Cdn Nat Res	36.85	36½	36.60	36.70
Cdn Occid Pet	31.45	31	31.40	31.20
Cdn Pacific	36.85	36.40	36.40	36¾
Cominco	39.55	39.30	39.30	39.55
Dofasco	25.40	25.15	25.15	25.20
Domtar	11.20	10.90	11	11.20
Donohue A	30	29.60	29.60	30
Du Pont Cda A	33	33	33	33
Edper Group	23.65	23.40	23½	23¾
EuroNev Mng	40.90	40.30	40½	40½
Fairfax Finl	344	338	338	342
Falconbridge	31.05	30½	30½	31.10
Fletcher Chall A	23¼	23	23.10	23
Franco Nevada	73.70	72¼	72.70	73.20
Gulf Cda Res	12.40	12.20	12.30	12¼
Imperial Oil	66.10	65.60	65.95	66½
Inco	45½	45.10	45.15	45.40
IPL Energy	43.60	43½	43½	43½
Laidlaw B	18.80	18.55	18.70	18¾
Loewen Group	45¾	44.35	45.45	44¾
Macmill Bldl	20.05	19.80	19.95	20.10
Magna Intl A	74½	74.05	74.20	74.30
Methanex	12.35	12¼	12.35	12.35
Moore	30.90	30¾	30.80	30¾
Newbridge Net	57¼	55.10	55¾	57.10
Noranda Inc	31.65	31.10	31.15	31.80
Norcen Energy	33½	32¾	33.20	33½
Nthern Telecom	117.65	116	116.20	117.10
Nova	11.45	11.30	11.40	11.40
Onex	26.40	26¼	26.40	26.70
Pancdn Petlm	30.35	30	30¼	30¼
Petro Cda	23½	22.80	23½	22¾
Placer Dome	25.30	24.60	25.30	24.90
Poco Petlm	15	14.65	14.70	15
Potash Sask	113.85	113.20	113.45	113.45
Renaissance	43	42½	42.90	42.40
Rio Algom	36.70	36.55	36.65	36.85
Rogers Cantel B	25	24½	25	24½
Seagram Co	55.20	54.15	55	54.10
Shell Cda A	58	57¼	57.35	58
Stone Consold	25.30	24.85	25.30	24.80
Suncor	34.70	33.85	34¼	33.85
Talisman Eny	45.70	44.65	45.70	44.85
Teck B	30¼	29.60	29.95	29.70
Teleglobe	42¼	41.55	42	41.35
Telus	24.40	24	24.30	24
Thomson	30¼	29.65	30.20	29.70
TorDom Bank	42.10	41.20	41.30	41.95
Transalta	15.80	15.60	15¾	16.05
TransCda Pipe	26.70	26.45	26.55	26.65
Trimark Finl	53.40	51	52.05	53¼
Trizec Hahn	29.85	29.70	29.80	29.80
TVX Gold	9	8¾	9	8.80
Westcoast Eny	25.10	24¾	24.85	25.10
Weston	84	81	84	81

Wellington
NZSE-40 index: 2339.33 Previous: 2332.87

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	4.30	4.28	4.30	4.30
Brierly Invt	1.34	1.33	1.33	1.34
Carter Holt ord	3.41	3.34	3.40	3.36
Fletch Ch Bldg	4.05	4.00	4.04	4.02
Fletch Ch Eny	4.65	4.57	4.65	4.60
Fletch Ch Forst	1.93	1.90	1.92	1.93
Fletch Ch Paper	3.28	3.22	3.28	3.23
Lion Nathan	3.81	3.71	3.81	3.71
Telecom NZ	6.97	6.94	6.94	7.00
Wilson Horton	11.70	11.65	11.65	11.65

Zurich
SPI index: 3248.80 Previous: 3250.39

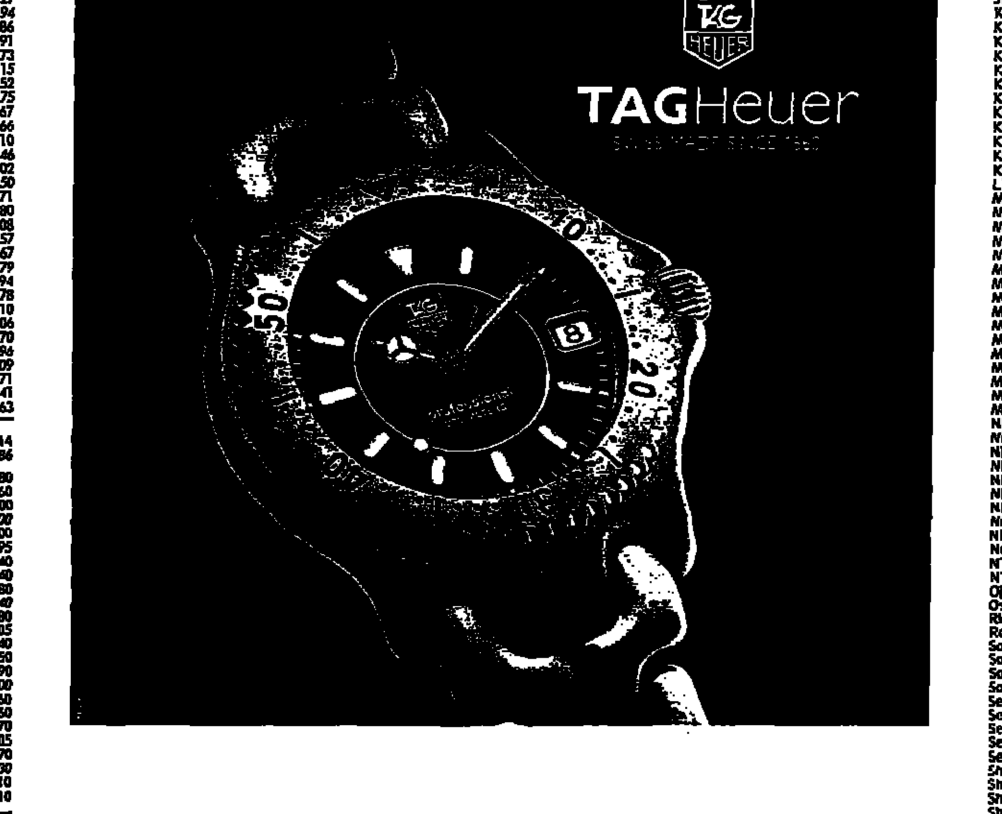
	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABB B	2004	1976	1987	2015
Adecco B	539	522	539	530
Alusuisse R	1378	1358	1369	1380
Ares-Serono B	1970	1960	1965	1965
Alei R	880	880	880	880
Baer Hdg B	1970	1960	1966	1980
Baloise Hdg R	3200	3160	3170	3200
BK Vision	1085	1074	1080	1080
Ciba Spec Chem	143	136.25	140.50	144
Clariant R	919	903	914	920
Crd Suisse Gp R	184.75	180	183	184
Elektrowatt B	539	538	539	539
Ems-Chemie	6335	6245	6300	6320
ESEC Hdg	4550	4450	4475	4500
Holderbank B	1259	1224	1248	1227
Liechtenst LB B	483	483	483	483
Nestle R	1799	1772	1797	1786
Novartis R	1958	1939	1951	1956
Oerlikn Bueh R	169	160.25	166.50	161.50
Pargesa Hld B	1815	1798	1815	1804
PharmVisn B	800	779	797	795
Richemont A	1970	1950	1969	1960
Pirelli PC	238	235.75	238	233.75
Roche Hdg PC	12930	17660	12780	12810
SBC R	349.50	341	348.50	343
Schindler PC	1850	1834	1840	1850
SGS B	3230	3160	3190	3170
SMH B	879	856	866	869
Sulzer R	1165	1152	1160	1168
Swiss Reins R	1949	1923	1935	1949
Swissair R	1473	1459	1470	1475
UBS B	1573	1540	1571	1545
Winterthur R	1168	1151	1167	1160
Zurich Assur R	528	513	519	524

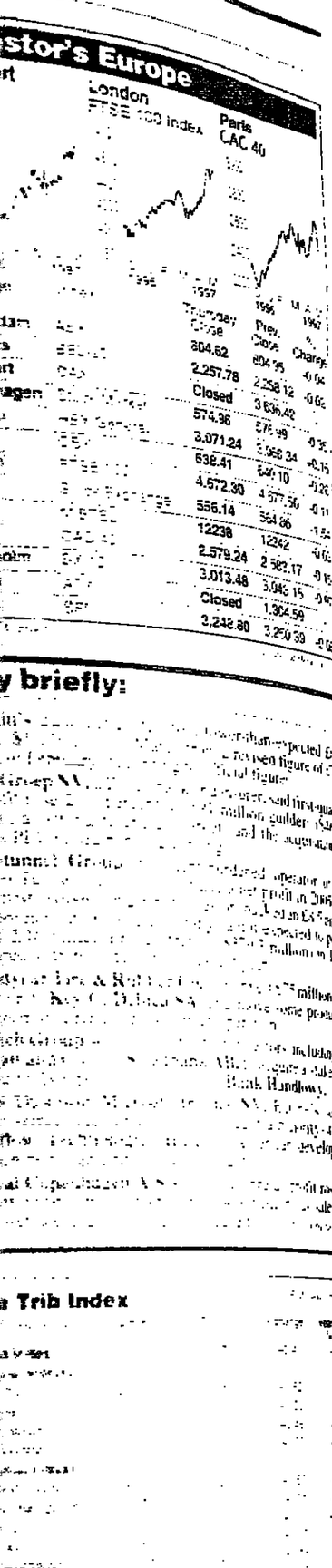
The Trib Index

Prices as of 3:00 P.M. New York time.

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	166.51	-0.67	–0.40	+11.65
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	124.39	-0.78	–0.62	+0.78
Europe	174.48	-0.53	–0.30	+8.24
N. America	192.05	-0.89	–0.46	+18.62
S. America	156.45	-0.05	–0.03	+36.72
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	204.26	-1.08	–0.53	+19.51
Consumer goods	186.75	-0.95	–0.51	+15.68
Energy	195.98	+0.05	+0.03	+14.80
Finance	124.24	-0.46	–0.37	+6.68
Miscellaneous	168.39	-0.27	–0.16	+4.09
Raw Materials	184.42	-0.61	–0.33	+5.15
Service	157.64	-0.77	–0.49	+14.80
Utilities	143.18	-0.76	–0.53	-0.20

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar values of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Compiled by Bloomberg News.





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A$ - Australian Dollars; AS - Austrian Schillings; BF - Belgian Francs; C$ - Canadian Dollars; DM - Deutsche Marks; Dkk - Danish Kroner; Do - US Dollars; ECU - European Currency Unit; FF - French Francs; Flt - Finish Mark; FL - Dutch sFlorin; IDR - Indonesian Rupiah; Lit - Italian lire; LF - Luxembourg Francs; p-pence; MYR - Malaysian Ringgit; Ptas - Pesetas; SGS - Singapore Dollars; SF - Swiss Francs; Skk - Swedish Kronor; THB - Thai Baht; Y - Yen;

a - asked ÷ - Offer Prices; N.A. - Not Available; N.C. - Not Communicated; n- New; S - suspended; S/S - stock Split; * - Ex-Dividend; ** - Ex-Rights; - C Offer Price Incl. 2%; prelim. charge; * - Paris exchange; ++ -Amsterdam exchange; e - adjusted earlier; n-not registered with regulatory authority; P: Middle of bid and offered price, E. estimated price; y: price calculated 2 days prior to publication; z: bid price.

The marginal symbols indicate frequency of quotations supplied: (d) - daily; (w) - weekl: (b) - bi-monthly; (f) - fortnightly; (r) - regularly; (t) - twice weekly; (m) - monthly.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Yankees Sign Irabu

BASEBALL Hideki Irabu and the New York Yankees finally agreed to terms Thursday, settling on a $12.8 million, four-year contract.

The sides were still working out final details. The agreement was to be announced at a news conference Friday.

The 27-year-old right-hander will receive the largest contract ever for a major league rookie, a deal that includes an $8.5 million signing bonus and averages $2.7 million a season. Irabu will very will be assigned to the minors for a week to a month. *(AP)*

Tonkov Holds off Leblanc

CYCLING Pavel Tonkov, the Giro leader d'Italia, held off a series of challenges Thursday on a mountainous stage into Varezze.

Giuseppe di Grande, an Italian who rides in Tonkov's Saeco team, won the 214-kilometer stage from La Spezia that crossed two mountain passes and ended with a heart-stopping descent to the Ligurian seaside town.

Tonkov, and his chief rival, Luc Leblanc, finished 12 seconds after di Grande's group. The Russian is 41 seconds ahead of Leblanc.

Several riders crashed into hedges and tangled with a TV motorcycle. *(Reuters)*

AP

Tonkov, the Giro leader, climbing near Varezze on Thursday.

Ronaldo Changes Mind

SOCCER Hours after his agents had appeared to accept a contract with Barcelona, Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker, told Spanish journalists that he would leave the club and blamed the club president, Jose Luis Nunez.

"Everything Nunez has said is a lie, and we no longer need to negotiate with them," Ronaldo said in an interview published Thursday in the Spanish sports daily Marca.

The interview came after a hectic 24 hours of talks, in which Ronaldo's agents had appeared to accept, and then pull out of, a deal to improve his contract. One of the sticking points was whether a bonus payment of 2 billion pesetas ($14 million) should be paid in Spain or in a tax haven. *(Reuters)*

• Mohamed al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, the luxury London department store, has agreed to become the major shareholder in an English second division soccer club, Fulham, Harrods said Thursday.

Al Fayed, an Egyptian-born businessman, will become club chairman as part of the deal while the club has reacquired the freehold to its Craven Cottage stadium on the banks of the Thames in west London. *(Reuters)*

Broadhurst Leads

GOLF Paul Broadhurst of England took the first-round lead Thursday in the European Tournament Players' championship in Hamburg. He made a four-under-par 68 on a cold windy day. Alberto Binaghi of Italy, Miguel Angel Martin of Spain and Barry Lane of England were all a shot back on 69. *(Reuters)*

Jacques Demarthon/Agence France-Presse

Martina Hingis reaching for one during her second-round French Open match against Gloria Pizzichini.

Being No. 1 Counts, Martina Hingis Finds

Her Foe, Near Victory, Blows It

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Martina Hingis made it through, barely.

Her Italian opponent was behaving like a security guard, stubbornly refusing to let Hingis into the French Open's third round. The 16-year-old Hingis tried everything to prove she belonged there. She waved her groundstrokes around, imploring the guard to imagine the disaster the French Open final would be if it were to go on without forehands like these — and how about this two-handed backhand? Huh? So how about it? But the guard was not impressed (and neither was the audience).

A stronger champion would have tried to push her way through with serves and volleys, but Hingis doesn't have that in her. She was just five points away from it being too late when, mystifyingly, as it sometimes goes with doormen and bouncers, her opponent suddenly seemed to get it. *"You mean, you're the No. 1 player in the world?"* Gloria Pizzichini, seemed to say.

Pizzichini double-faulted away her crucial game point, then just as quickly, almost apologetically, gave away the next two points to allow Hingis to draw even in the second set. *"If you're No. 1, you can't be wasting your time out here with a player like me!"* And Pizzichini, No. 75 in the world, proceeded to lose eight games in a row to help lead Hingis through the gate where the stars go — at 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 — while Pizzichini stayed behind, as if at her post.

She just had to hold her ground and there wouldn't have been anything Hingis could have done about it.

"It means that I was too afraid to win the match," Pizzichini said afterward.

Hingis pressed her hands together and said, "She made the double fault and I was like, 'Thank God.' It helps sometimes if you're No. 1 in the world."

The next time Hingis is frustrated, her title might not do her as much good. Hingis said she was afraid to run hard because of a knee injury, which required arthroscopic surgery after she was thrown off a friend's horse five weeks ago.

"I have a little fear," she said.

After winning her opening singles match easily, she said her confidence was hurt by a poor doubles performance Wednesday.

"Because I didn't play seven weeks, I don't have the eye right now to see where the balls are going, so that's maybe my little problem," she said. "I don't have the anticipation."

It is also possible that Hingis will improve as the two weeks wear on, and be back near her best in time for the semifinal. She has now won 33 consecutive matches, the fifth longest streak in women's tennis since 1968.

Nonetheless, the women's title on Thursday became Steffi Graf's to lose. The defending champion at Roland Garros for the last two years, winner overall of five French Opens and 21 Grand Slam titles, Graf herself is recovering from a knee injury that sidelined her for three months. Unlike Hingis, Graf is entirely used to such difficulties. In recent years Graf, 27, has probably won more major titles while injured than while healthy.

But no one at the top is safe. No. 3 Monica Seles advanced with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Sarah Pitkowski of France, and then complained about a recent heel injury restricting her movement. She also misses her father and coach, Karolj Seles, at home in Florida undergoing treatment for cancer.

"It's really hard just in terms of playing, practicing, just also having it on your mind," said Seles, 23. "If I'm feeling I'm struggling, I always call my daddy. He saw my first match, told me the things I need to work on."

Hingis's next opponent will be the youngest entrant, 15-year-old Anna Kournikova of Russia, who has yet to lose a set in her first French Open. Hingis has beaten her twice in junior matches, including a victory at Wimbledon, when she didn't yield a game.

The other 16-year-old, a 6-foot-1 American, Venus Williams, was knocked out of her debut Grand Slam tournament by 29-year-old Nathalie Tauziat of France, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5. Williams was 3 years old when Tauziat was made her own first appearance at Roland Garros. The end came on center court in front of a full house when Williams double faulted for the 13th time in the match.

"Clay isn't, I guess, my favorite surface, but I had fun," Williams said. "I mean, I never slid like this before in my life, sliding into balls. I would hit the ball, then slide. I would never slide the right way. This is the first time I ever slid the right way, so it's a good thing. I was having fun sliding around. But all my sliding is over. Somebody put an end to it. I'll have to slide next year."

A Cup Final Worthy of the Hype

Vantage Point / **PETER BERLIN**

International Herald Tribune

MUNICH — For once the European Cup final matched the hype piled around it. All to often the match — the climax of Europe's top club competition — is a deeply dreary and defensive spectacle.

On a balmy summer evening Wednesday in the tree-shadowed bowl of Munich's Olympic Stadium, the match for once lived up to the overamplified, glitzy, showbiz staging.

Borussia Dortmund of Germany upset Juventus of Turin, the reigning European champion, 3-1.

There is no reason why great occasions should produce great games. This is not a problem restricted to soccer. The Super Bowl — from which the European Cup Final has stolen the halftime show and the giant video screen with its specially commissioned films — frequently fails to live up to its hype.

The European Cup has one advantage over the Super Bowl: a blowout is an acceptable result. If soccer fans cannot have a great contest they will settle for the coronation of a great team. Great teams *do* rise to the occasion. Two of the best finals of the last 20 years were AC Milan's two 4-0 victories. In 1989, Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten reduced Steau Bucharest to a team of helpless schoolboys. In 1994 Milan exposed the defensive limitations of Ronald Koeman and Barcelona with a cruel brilliance.

Until Wednesday, those two routs were the only finals in 19 years to produce as many as four goals. This year's game also had the bonus of two quite dazzling scores, a pleasant change from the years when even one bad goal seemed a bonus. Fourteen of the previous 19 finals had ended 0-0 or 1-0. Last year's final was relative a goal-feast: Ajax and Juventus tied 1-1, (after 30 minutes extra time) and Juventus then won the penalty shoot-out.

On Wednesday, Juventus started with confidence. In a refreshing break with tradition, it went for Dortmund from the kickoff. Zinedine Zidane tumbled mysteriously in the penalty area. Behind him Stefan Reuter, a Dortmund defender, tried to look surprised. Sandor Puhl, the referee, declined to award a penalty. Then, Christian Vieri, in the clear, shot wide of the Dortmund goal.

Dortmund was also quick to attack, but for the first half hour it struggled to penetrate the hard-working, hard-tackling Juventus defense. Suddenly the German team was two goals up. The goals came in the 30th and 34th minutes and were very similar. Two crosses — one from the left, one from the right — floated over the mass of Juventus defenders to the far post where Karlheinz Riedle, Dortmund's deadliest striker, waited unmarked. He beat Angelo Peruzzi first with a slashing shot and then with a stinging header.

"He said he had a dream before the match that he would score one with his left foot and another with his head. It is unbelievable, I know," Reuter said.

"When the first one went in with my left foot, I couldn't believe it," said Riedle. "So I thought 'Well, I'd better just keep on dreaming.'"

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, brought on Alessandro del Piero, the young star whose form had deserted him. After 65 minutes he rediscovered his touch. A crisp, clever buildup finished with Alen Boksic crossing low into the goalmouth where del Piero finished with a circus flick, volleying the ball left-footed behind his own right leg and past Stefan Klos, the Dortmund keeper.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Dortmund coach, replaced attacker Stephane Chapuisat with midfielder Lars Ricken — a defensive move. Yet with his first touch Ricken effectively ended the match. He received the ball 30 meters from the Juventus goal and hit an instant, arcing, floating shot that caught Peruzzi five meters off his goal line, sailed out of reach above his head and then dipped just under the crossbar.

"To score with my first touch of the match is just madness," Ricken said. "I had noticed throughout that he stood quite a way off his line. But it felt like a film afterwards. I couldn't believe it."

It was a great goal but it deflated a potentially great game, draining the last 20 minutes of any suspense.

Juventus managed 13 strikes on target, Dortmund only three, each one a goal. Yet in the end, Juventus was well beaten and its claim to greatness exposed. Its attackers are slow, its defenders erratic and too many of its players did not rise to the great occasion. Riedle was the best striker on the field; Andreas Moller, who had a foot in all three goals, the best midfield player; and Matthias Sammer, crisp and decisive, the best defender. All three have struggled with injuries, but on Wednesday they showed familiar world class form. Most Juventus players fell far short of their level.

This is why the fans, the viewers, the sponsors, broadcasters and advertisers put up with one dreary, defensive final after another. In a world of manufactured entertainment, those dull spectacles are proof of the integrity of the sporting event. Sport offers an uncertain outcome and the possibility of watching spontaneous genius as it happens.

On Wednesday night, as Sammer, the Dortmund captain, hoisted the cup, and that greatest of modern stadium horrors, Queen's "We Are The Champions" drowned the joyous reaction of the Borussia fans, fireworks filled the sky. For once the soccer itself had offered some fireworks. That will be enough to keep soccer fans tuning in again next year.

Larsson Plucks Another Seed

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

The only seeded player to fall in either the men's or women's draw Thursday was Felix Mantilla of Spain, the latest victim of Sweden's Magnus Larsson.

Larsson, who defeated Jim Courier, a former champion, in the first round, beat Mantilla, the 10th seed, 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, and could yet be a threat to Michael Chang, who is in the same quarter of the draw.

Chang, seeded second, moved into the third round with a victory over Jerome Golmard of France, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. The Dutchman Richard Krajicek, seeded sixth, beat Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, seeded 13th, and a semifinalist last year, beat Roberto Carretero of Spain, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4. *(Reuters, AFP)*

Kai Pfaffenbach/Reuters

Paulo Sousa of Borussia Dortmund carrying cup out of the stadium.

Munich Owes Dortmund One

International Herald Tribune

Dortmund's victory in the European Cup Final was good news for Munich but bad news for Turkey.

With one round of German Budesliga games to go, Dortmund can finish no higher than third. If it had lost Wednesday, it would have played in next season's UEFA Cup. Instead, as reigning European Cup Champion it will be allowed to defend its crown and will be one of the eight seeded teams, as will Bayern Munich, the German champion.

The eight seeded teams advance directly to the Champions League stage of the competition.

Juventus had already secured a top-eight seeding as Italian champion. If it had won Wednesday, it would have opened a seeded place for the champion of the eighth-ranked country in Europe: Galatasaray of Turkey.

Instead Galatasaray will have to compete in the enlarged qualifying round, which will be played July 23 and 30.

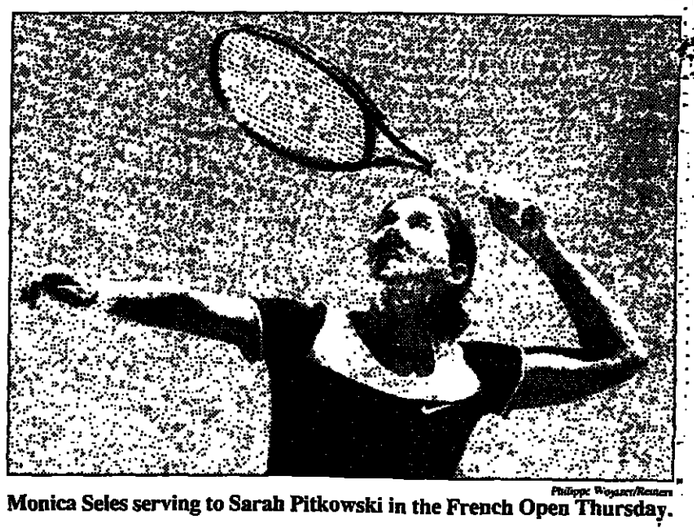
That round will also include the second-place teams from Europe's biggest leagues, which are being admitted for the first time. They include Bayer Leverkusen of Germany.

Germany will have nine teams in Europe's three cups next season.

It has five places in the UEFA Cup. One belongs to Schalke, which won that cup last week and qualifies as holder. Before Wednesday, Stuttgart and Bochum, had made sure of fourth and fifth place in the Bundesliga and two UEFA Cup places.

Dortmund's promotion to the Champions Cup freed another UEFA Cup place.

It meant that Munich 1860, sixth in the Bundesliga, was a certain European entry. That leaves Karlsruher and Werder Bremen to contest the last place.



Philippe Wojazer/Reuters

Monica Seles serving to Sarah Pitkowski in the French Open Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	34	15	.694	—
New York	27	24	.529	8
Toronto	25	23	.521	8½
Detroit	23	27	.460	11½
Boston	21	27	.438	12½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	27	22	.551	—
Milwaukee	22	25	.468	4
Chicago	22	26	.458	4½
Kansas City	22	27	.449	5
Minnesota	22	29	.431	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	27	22	.551	—
Anaheim	26	23	.531	1
Seattle	27	24	.529	1
Oakland	21	32	.396	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	35	15	.700	—
Florida	30	19	.612	4½
New York	28	23	.549	7½
Montreal	27	23	.540	8
Philadelphia	19	32	.373	16½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	25	26	.490	—
Pittsburgh	25	26	.490	—
St. Louis	21	28	.428	3
Chicago	19	31	.380	5½
Cincinnati	19	32	.373	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	29	20	.592	—
Colorado	27	23	.540	2½
Los Angeles	26	23	.531	3
San Diego	20	29	.408	9

WEDNESDAY'S LINE SCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago	100	101	000—3	6	0
Boston	000	130	10x—5	5	0

Alvarez, C. Castillo (6), McElroy (7), Karchner (7), T. Castillo (7) and Perez Sele, Wasdin (7), Slocumb (9) and Haselman. W—Sele, 6-3. L—Alvarez, 3-6. Sv—Slocumb (6). HRs—Chicago, F. Thomas (11), Belle (11).

Baltimore	240	110	000—8	10	0
Detroit	001	000	000—1	7	2

Key, Boskie (7) and Webster; Moehler, J. Cummings (2), Micell (6), Brocail (8), M. Myers (9) and B. Johnson. W—Key, 9-1. L—Moehler, 3-4. Sv—Boskie (1). HRs—Baltimore, By.Anderson (6), R. Alomar (6), R.Palmeiro (10).

Milwaukee	001	000	000—1	6	0
Minnesota	000	100	20x—3	7	0

Karl, Fetters (7) and Levis; Radke, Guardado (9), Aguilera (9) and Steinbach. W—Radke, 4-4. L—Karl, 2-6. Sv—Aguilera (10). HRs—Minnesota, Coomer (4), Dr.Jackson (3).

New York	000	320	010—6	6	0
Toronto	004	000	000—4	5	1

D.Wells, M. Rivera (8) and Posada; Guzman, Plesac (8), Quantrill (8), Timlin (9) and Santiago. W—D. Wells, 5-3. L—Guzman, 3-5. Sv—M. Rivera (15). HRs—New York, T. Martinez (19). Toronto, Carter (5).

Cleveland	010	100	170—10	16	1
Kansas City	000	010	200—3	6	1

Ogea, Assenmacher (7), Plunk (8), M. Jackson (9) and S. Alomar; Belcher, Cosden (8) and Macfarlane. W—Assenmacher, 1-0. L—Belcher, 3-4. HR—Cleveland, Justice (15).

Texas	000	000	000—0	4	0
Seattle	020	000	12x—5	7	0

D.Oliver, Whiteside (7), Gunderson (8) and I. Rodriguez; Ro.Johnson, Ayala (9) and Da.Wilson. W—Ro.Johnson, 7-1. L—D. Oliver, 2-6.

Anaheim	140	000	405—14	14	0
Oakland	300	210	130—10	15	2

D.Springer, F. Harris (7), James (8), Holtz (8), Percival (8) and Leyritz; Karsay, C. Reyes (7), Mohler (7), D. Johnson (9) and Ga.Williams. W—Percival, 2-2. L—Mohler, 0-8. HRs—Anaheim, Erstad (5), Hollins (5). Oakland, Giambi (6), McGwire 2 (19), Sheldon (1).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago	000	000	100—1	6	1
Pittsburgh	100	030	00x—4	8	1

Mulholland, Bottenfield (6), R. Tatis (8) and Servais; Cooke, Rincon (8), Iolselle (9) and Kendall. W—Cooke, 4-6. L—Mulholland, 4-4. HR—Pittsburgh, E. Brown (1).

New York	000	520	000—7	10	1
Montreal	000	000	000—0	4	1

B.J.Jones and Hundley; P.J.Martinez, Torres (6) and Fletcher. W—B. J.Jones, 9-2. L—P. J.Martinez, 8-1. HR—New York, Baerga (1).

Philadelphia	000	000	000—0	8	2
Cincinnati	010	000	10x—2	7	0

Stephenson, Bottalico (8) and Parent, Lieberthal (7); Mercker, Carrasco (7), Remlinger (8), Shaw (9) and J. Oliver. W—Mercker, 2-5. L—Stephenson, 2-1. Sv—Shaw (7).

JAPANESE LEAGUES

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Yakult	26	18	—	.591	—
Hiroshima	21	20	—	.512	13.5
Chunichi	22	21	—	.511	6 3.5
Yokohama	19	20	—	.487	4.5
Hanshin	20	23	—	.465	5.5
Yomiuri	18	24	—	.429	7.0

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Yokohama 7, Yakult 5
Yomiuri 3, Hiroshima 1
Hanshin 3, Chunichi 2

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Seibu	26	16	—	.619	—
Orix	19	18	—	.514	4.5
Daiei	22	22	—	.500	5.0
Lotte	19	21	1	.475	6.0
Nippon Ham	20	23	—	.465	6.5
Kintetsu	18	24	1	.429	8.0

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Daiei 5, Nippon Ham 2
Kintetsu 3, Lotte 2 (10 innings)

BASKETBALL

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS
(BEST-OF-SEVEN)

WEDNESDAY'S RESULT

Miami	19	31	15	22—	87
Chicago	33	31	16	20—	100

M: Hardaway 7-19 0-9 27. Mashburn 7-14 6-7 22. C: Jordan 11-31 5-6 28; Longley 6-8 2-4 14, Harper 6-9 1-2 14. Rebounds—Miami 41 (Mourning 8), Chicago 60 (Rodman 13). Assists—Miami 13 (Hardaway, Lenard 5), Chicago 25 (Kukoc 7).

(Chicago won series 4-1)

CRICKET

AUSTRALIA TOUR
3-DAY MATCH, FINAL DAY
GLOUCESTERSHIRE VS. AUSTRALIA
THURSDAY, IN BRISTOL

Australia: 249 all out and 354-4 declared
Gloucestershire: 350 all out.
Match ended in draw.

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA

Leading placings in 214-km 12th stage of Giro d'Italia from La Spezia to Varezze on Thursday:

1. di Grande, It., Mapei 5 h. 47 m. and 14 s.; 2. Serrano, Sp., Kelme; 3. Sheter, Kaz., Asics; 4. Mercks, Belg., Palti; 5. Piepoli, It., Ceramiche Refin all s.t.; 6. Belli, It., Brescialat at 12 s.; 7. Guerini, It., Palti; 8. Leblanc, Fr., Palti; 9. Gotti, It., Saeco; 10. Tonkov, Rus., Mapei, all s.t.

OVERALL: 1. Tonkov 55 h. 22 m. and 6 s.; 2. Leblanc at 41 s.; 3. Gotti 1:07; 4. Noe' It., Asics 1:49; 5. Piepoli 2:37; 6. Sheter 2:49; 7. Savoldelli, It., Rosiatia 2:51; 8. di Grande 3:38; 9. Simoni, It., Mogliticia MG 3:56; 10. Guerini 3:58.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CUP
WEDNESDAY, IN MUNICH

Borussia Dortmund 3, Juventus 1

HUNGARIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
FINAL STANDINGS: *MTK 85 points;* Ujpest 76; Ferencvaros 74; Vasas 64; Debrecen 52; BVSC 49; Kispest 45; Videoton 42; Gyor 42; Haladas 40; Vac 40; Siofok 40; Zalaegerszeg 40; Bekescsaba 36; Ht. ker. TVE 35; Stadler 28; Pecs 26; Csepel 25.

COPA LIBERTADORES
QUARTERFINALS, RETURN LEG

Colo Colo, Chile, 3, Univ. Catolica, Chile, 1
Colo Colo advances on 4-3 aggregate.
Sporting Cristal, Peru, 3, Bolivar, Bolivia, 0
Cristal advances on 4-2 aggregate.
Racing, Argentina, 1, Penarol, Uruguay, 0
Aggregate 0-0; Racing advances 3-2 on penalties.

AZERBAIJAN CUP FINAL
Kapaz Ganca 1, Hazri Busovna 0
ARMENIAN CUP FINAL
Ararat Yerevan 1, Punic Yerevan 0

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN

SECOND ROUND
WOMEN'S SINGLES

Van Roost, Belgium, def. Gagliardi, Switz, 6-2, 6-0.
Testud, Fr. def. Cristea, Rom, 6-0, 6-4.
Sanchez Vicario (6), Sp. def. Sugiyama, Jap, 6-3, 6-1.
Farina, It. def. Begerow, Ger, 6-4, 6-2.
Zvereva, Bel. def. Lamarre, Fr, 6-4, 7-5.
Fernandez (12), U.S., def. Glass, Germany 6-1, 6-0.
Seles (3), U.S., def. Pitkowski, Fr, 6-3, 7-5.
Pavlus (16), Aus. def. Wang, Taiw, 6-2, 6-2.
Ruano-Pascual, Sp. def. Cochetaux, Fr, 6-4, 6-2.
Po, U.S., def. Yoshida, Jap, 6-3, 6-0.
Ningis (1), Switzer. def. Pizzichini, It, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Kournikova, Rus. def. Cecchini, It, 6-2, 6-2.
Schultz-McCarthy (14), Neth. def. Labat, Arg, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.
Perfetti, It. def. Ghirardi-Rubbi, Fr, 6-4, 6-1.
Raymond, U.S. def. Tanasugarn, Thailand, 6-1, 6-1.
Tauziat, Fr. def. Williams, U.S., 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.
Pierce (10), Fr. def. Hy-Boutali, Can, 6-1, 6-3.

MEN'S SINGLES

Norman, Swe. def. Pras, Ind, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Bruguera (16), Sp. def. Van Scheppingen, Neth, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.
Korda, Czech. def. Costa, Spain, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.
Costa (11), Sp. def. Pevet, Rom, 6-1, 4-6, 0-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Blanco, Sp. def. Gustafsson, Swe, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-1).
Woodforde, Austl. def. Volkov, Rus, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, 7-5.
Chang (2), U.S. def. Golmard, Fr, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.
Norman, Belg. def. Stolle, Austl, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.
Ruffer, Austl. def. Fontang, Fr, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Arazi, Mor. def. Woodbridge, Australia, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.
Baetsch, Fr. def. Ondruska, S.Af, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.
Sinsian, Fr. def. Kraczka, Hung, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3).
Ferreira (13), S.Af. def. Carretero, Sp, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4.
Larsson, Swe. def. Mantilla (10), Sp, 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Woodruff, U.S. def. Lapentti, Ecua, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Krajicek (6), Neth. def. Ulihrach, Czech, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE

CLEVELAND—Recalled RHP Bartolo Colon from Buffalo, AA. Optioned INF Trenidad Hubbard to Buffalo.

KANSAS CITY—Optioned C Mike Sweeney to Omaha, AA. Recalled C Sal Fasano from Wichita, TL.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CHICAGO—Recalled RHP Jeremi Gonzalez from Iowa, AA.

CINCINNATI—Recalled INF Jeff Branson from Indianapolis, AA. Optioned RHP Brett Tomko to Indianapolis.

COLORADO—Signed LHP Josh Kalinowski, RHP Steve Iannacone, RHP Jake Kidd, RHP Ryan Price, RHP Tim Scott and RHP Brad Woodard. Sent LHP Bruce Ruffin to New Haven, EL on rehabilitation assignment.

LOS ANGELES—Announced OF Wayne Kirby cleared waivers and accepted outright assignment to Albuquerque, PCL.

SAN DIEGO—Activated 3B Ken Caminiti from 15-day disabled list. Sent INF Terry Shumpert outright to Las Vegas, PCL.

SAN FRANCISCO—Assigned C Darryl Kennedy to Phoenix, PCL and C Johnny Bess to Shreveport, TL.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

NBA—Fined Chicago F Dennis Rodman and Miami C Alonzo Mourning $5,000 each for 4th-quarter altercation in Monday's playoff game.

BOSTON—Named Chris Wallace general manager.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BUFFALO—Re-signed WR Steve Tasker.

JACKSONVILLE—Signed CB Mike Logan, LB James Hamilton, DT Seth Payne, FB Daimon Shelton and LB Jon Hesse.

NEW ORLEANS—Released WR Michael Haynes and WR Torrance Small. Agreed to terms with WR Andre Hastings, WR Randal Hill, CB Mickey Washington and C Jerry Fontenot on 2-year contracts.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed DE Charles Estes.

WASHINGTON—Signed WR Albert Connell and DB Keith Thibodeaux.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BOSTON—Signed RW Per-Johan Axelsson to 2-year contract.

PITTSBURGH—Signed G Jean-Sebastian Aubin. Announced they declined to pick up their option on D Craig Muni.

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Bulls' Balance Sends Heat to the Showers

Chicago to Face Utah or Houston In Quest for 5th Title in 7 Years

By Michael Wilbon
Washington Post Service

CHICAGO — To borrow a thought from Tiger Woods, the Bulls finally stopped winning with their C-plus game.

Okay, it wasn't one of their vintage performances, but Chicago finally put forth the kind of collective team effort it had spoiled us with through four championship seasons. From Michael Jordan through the 11th man, Jud Buechler, the Bulls got contributions from everywhere imaginable to beat the Miami Heat, 100-87, on Wednesday night to win the series 3-1. The Bulls are now in the NBA finals for the fifth time in seven years.

NBA Playoffs

The Bulls proved once again that when angered or challenged, they are still the league's best team.

Jordan said before the game that this was personal, and without being specific, it was obvious his words were directed largely at Alonzo Mourning. A personal duel, as so many have found out since 1985, isn't something you want to engage in with Jordan.

It's not that Jordan had one of his celestial scoring games: he made only 11 of 31 shots and said he was "too hyped" for the game. Still, he set the angry tone, and his teammates picked up on it. The loser was Mourning, the Heat's center, who for the second time this series had one field goal in only four attempts.

"He did it to himself," Jordan said. "We didn't do anything. He talked himself out of the game."

Actually, the Bulls did quite a bit to negate Mourning. Luc Longley and Brian Williams combined for 24 points, nine rebounds and eight blocked shots, and the Bulls attacked Mourning with a double-team defense whenever he caught an entry pass or as soon as he took one dribble. The result: He committed seven of Miami's 14 turnovers.

Two things the Bulls' championship teams have frequently lacked are scoring from the center and scoring from the reserves. But in finishing off Miami, the Bulls got 33 points from their substitutes. It was a good thing, because Scottie Pippen sprained his foot seven minutes into the game, which didn't hurt the Bulls on Wednesday night but certainly looms as a pre-finals subplot.

Asked whether the Bulls could beat Houston or Utah — who are seeking the other final berth in a series in which Utah leads three games to two — without Pippen, Jordan said, "Yeah, but I would prefer if we didn't have to go that route."

This is why you never, ever take a game for granted in the playoffs. Instead of closing out their series after taking a 3-1 lead, the New York Knicks goofed around and not only lost Game 5 to the Heat but got into the now-infamous bench-wandering wrestling match that led to New York losing a series it had well in hand.

The Bulls now find themselves faced with a similar problem. Pippen shouldn't have been injured in this game because the Bulls shouldn't have been playing this game. A focused, full-force effort from the start of Game 4 in Miami on Monday would have been enough to get Chicago a sweep and a rest. But noooo: The Bulls had to golf and party and fire up victory cigars after Game 3, blow Game 4 and play an unnecessary Game 5. The irony is that the Bulls came out Wednesday and played the kind of game the basketball public expects to see from them.

Is it fair to expect the Bulls not only to win but also to win artistically, to dominate teams that clearly are less talented? Maybe not, but that's sporting reality. We're not satisfied with seeing Roger Clemens win; we want double-digit strikeouts. We don't want to see Mike Tyson win a 12-round decision; we want a knockout. Do you want to see Junior Griffey bloop a single or hit one into the upper deck?

Lots of us, maybe most of us, want to see the all-time greats be great. We want to see their A-plus game, at least now and then — like the May 1991 afternoon in Detroit when the Bulls not only brought the Pistons' championship reign to an end but beat them by 21 points in Detroit to sweep the Eastern Conference finals. Or like the three-game set in Los Angeles a couple of weeks later that the Bulls swept to close out the Lakers for their — and Jordan's — first championship.

Or that 33-point victory over Portland in Game 1 of the '92 finals when Jordan lit up old Chicago Stadium with six three-pointers in the first half. Or the 22-point dismantling of the Sonics in Seattle to take Game 3 of last year's finals.

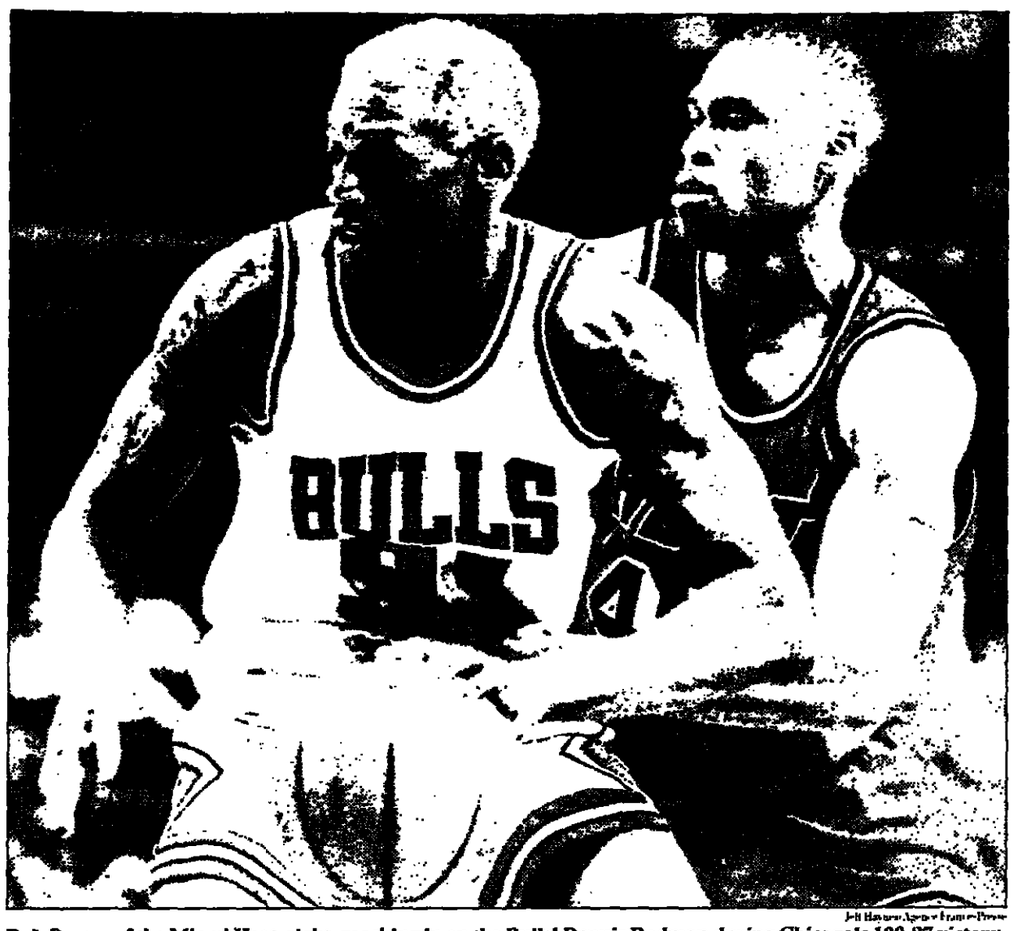
The Bulls aren't popular just because they're champions. The Pistons were two-time champs and never enjoyed the kind of adulation the Bulls do. That's because of Jordan, of course, but also because they play the most beautiful passing, cutting, driving, shooting, rebounding, defending game of ball since the old Celtics — maybe even better.

That's why it's a little difficult to get fired up over Jordan shooting 11 percent from 3-point land during the playoffs, or Pippen shooting 42 percent from everywhere, or Kukoc looking like some minor-league refugee instead of the multitalented threat that he can be.

Jordan admitted afterward: "I'd like to see us play Bulls basketball. If we don't play the type of basketball we're capable of ... all summer it's going to be talked about."

Ah, but if they win a fifth championship, Pat Riley, the Miami coach, said he did not foresee Houston or Utah beating the Bulls. "I don't think anybody's going to win again until Michael retires," he said. Then he added, "The dilemma for a lot of teams, and this includes the Knicks, is that sometimes you can build a team, a championship-caliber team, but have the misfortune of being born at the same time Jordan had his run."

Then Jordan had a final compliment for Riley. Well, sort of. "You know his team is going to give you 110 percent," Jordan said, adding: "He's presented a challenge to Michael Jordan, to Phil Jackson, to the Chicago Bulls everywhere he's been. He's a fierce competitor; he's not going to walk away from a challenge. And it gives me great pleasure each time to see that he's denied."



Jeff Haynes/Agence France-Presse

P. J. Brown of the Miami Heat, right, reaching in on the Bulls' Dennis Rodman during Chicago's 100-87 victory.

Red Wings And Flyers: One to End Cup Drought

By Jason Diamos
New York Times Service

It has been 22 years since the Philadelphia Flyers won the Stanley Cup. One of the Flyers' forwards, John LeClair, said it would be nice to win the cup this year because his city is "starving for a championship."

Imagine, then, how the stomachs of the fans in Detroit, which bills itself as Hockeytown, USA, must feel.

The Red Wings, who face the Flyers in this year's Stanley Cup finals, last won the sport's silver chalice in 1955 — long before many of their present-day fans were born — and have endured the longest current title drought in the National Hockey League.

Stanley Cup Finals

"We haven't heard about it as much as we did a couple of years ago, when it was at 40 years," the Detroit coach, Scotty Bowman, said. "But I think a lot of our players are conscious of the fact." Bowman, who has coached six Stanley Cup winners, was referring to Detroit's last appearance in the finals, in 1995, when the Red Wings were swept in four games by the New Jersey Devils.

But he also pointed out that it has been 30 years since Toronto won its last cup, and 36 years for Chicago. "You've got a lot of teams in the 20s and 30s," Bowman said, without mentioning the Flyers. "Unfortunately, we're in the 40s."

Game 1 of the four-of-seven-game series is Saturday at the Core States Center in Philadelphia.

Both coaches and two key players — LeClair and Detroit's goaltender, Mike Vernon — have stressed the similarities of the teams.

"They are a bit like us," Bowman said.

Both coaches said they would not change styles for this series. The Philadelphia coach, Terry Murray, said he would emphasize strong forechecking and his team's size up front to try to counteract Detroit's defensive tactics in the neutral zone.

Bowman said he would like his team to maintain its emotional level from the decisive Game 6 of the Western Conference finals against Colorado, in which Detroit dictated the pace.

The Flyers don't want to trade scoring chances with the Wings, who are led by the freewheeling forwards Sergei Fedorov and Slava Kozlov.

The Wings, who traded for bigger players during the regular season, would like to neutralize the remade Legion of Doom line that features Eric Lindros, LeClair and the rookie right winger Dainius Zubrus.

Both teams are big, offensive minded and coming off disappointing post-seasons last year. Both have had goaltender controversies. Both coaches have been under fire.

"There is no question we've grown from last year," Murray said, referring to his highly favored Flyers' early second-round exit at the hands of the upstart Florida Panthers in last season's tournament. The same could be said of the Red Wings, who were bounced in six games by underdog Colorado in the Western Conference finals last spring.

Reds Sink Phillies to an Equal Depth

The Associated Press

The Cincinnati Reds, who have the worst record in the major leagues, have dragged the Philadelphia Phillies down to their level.

The Reds beat the visiting Phillies, 2-0, on Wednesday to leave both teams tied for the worst record at 19-32. It also moved the Reds within six games of first place in the National League Central, where every team has a losing record.

Baseball Roundup

"We dug a big hole, but it's not too big in this division to get out of it," said the Reds' manager, Ray Knight. "Forget the won-loss record. We're just six games back. You can make that up in a week's time."

The Reds were clearly upbeat after they won for the first time behind starter Kent Mercker (2-5), who got his only previous victory in relief. The Reds had lost all of his seven starts.

The left-hander gave up four hits in six innings before leaving because of a twinge in his hamstring. Three relievers completed the eight-hitter, only Cincinnati's second shutout of the season.

The Phillies have the misfortune of playing in the same division with Atlanta. Instead of trailing the first-place team by six games like Cincinnati, they are 16½ games behind the Braves with the identical record.

Mets 7, Expos 0 Bobby Jones outdueled the previously unbeaten Pedro Martinez to become the league's first nine-game winner as New York won at Montreal.

Jones (9-2) pitched a four-hitter, matched a season-high with seven strikeouts and retired 13 successive batters over one stretch.

Carlos Baerga homered and drove in four runs for the Mets, who won for the 12th time in 17 games and moved a half-game ahead of Montreal into third place in the NL East.

Martinez (8-1) was charged with seven runs — two earned — in five innings and saw his earned run average rise to 1.36.

Pirates 4, Cubs 1 In Pittsburgh, the Pirates' manager, Gene Lamont, altered his lineup against Terry Mulholland, a left-hander, and it worked.

Emil Brown, one of four rookie starters in an all-right-handed lineup, hit his first major-league homer and Joe Randa had three doubles as the Pirates moved into a first-place tie with Houston in the NL Central.

Mulholland (4-4) was 4-0 with a 2.01 ERA in his six previous starts. His streak ended in part because of his own poor fielding — he mishandled a bunt to set up a rally — and in part because Steve Cooke pitched better. Cooke allowed one run and five hits in seven innings.

In American league games:

Mariners 5, Rangers 0 Randy Johnson struck out 15 Texas Rangers in eight innings to set the major league high for strikeouts in a game this season, topping the 13 by Toronto's Roger Clemens against Minnesota on May 10.

Johnson, making his 11th start since back surgery last September, allowed four hits as Seattle beat Texas. It was the most strikeouts for Johnson since he fanned 15 Oakland Athletics on Sept. 23, 1995. He struck out 15 or more for the 10th time in his career.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 4 Tino Martinez hit his 19th home run as New York overcame a 4-0 deficit at Toronto to win for just the second time in nine games.

Joe Carter passed Joe DiMaggio on the career home run list, hitting a three-run homer in a four-run third. Carter, who has 362 homers, moved into sole possession of 41st place.

Indians 10, Royals 3 David Justice's three-run homer capped a seven-run eighth inning as visiting Cleveland won for the ninth time in 11 games.

Paul Assenmacher (1-0) won for the first time since last Sept. 10 by throwing one pitch and retiring Joe Vitiello, pinch-hitting, in the seventh.

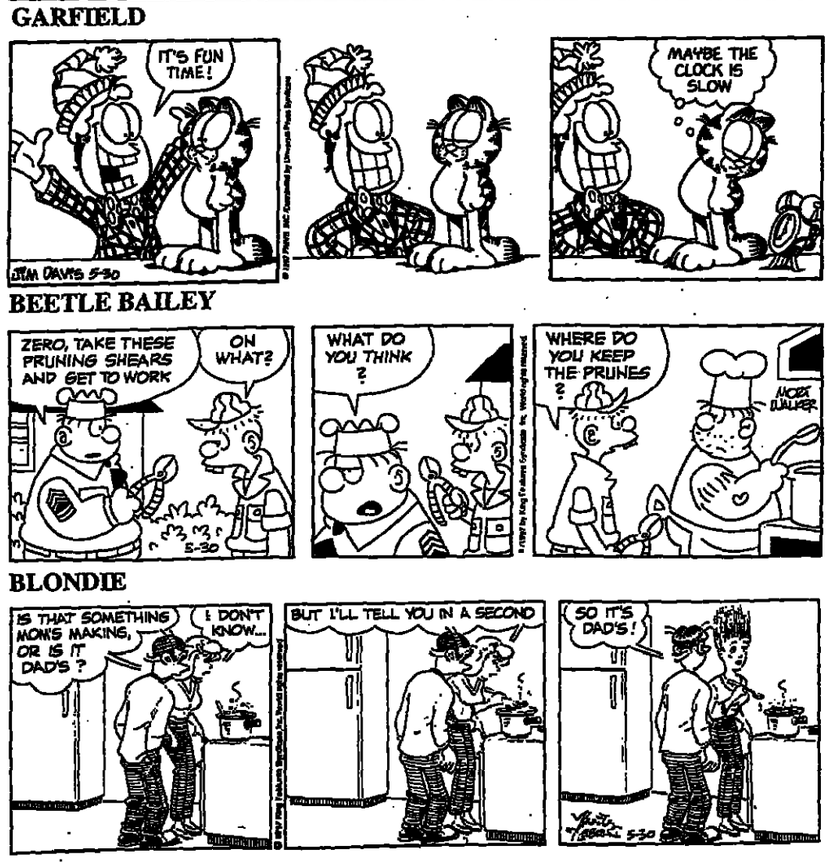
Orioles 8, Tigers 1 Roberto Alomar, Brady Anderson and Rafael Palmeiro each hit two-run homers as visiting Baltimore continued rolling, winning for the ninth time in 11 games.

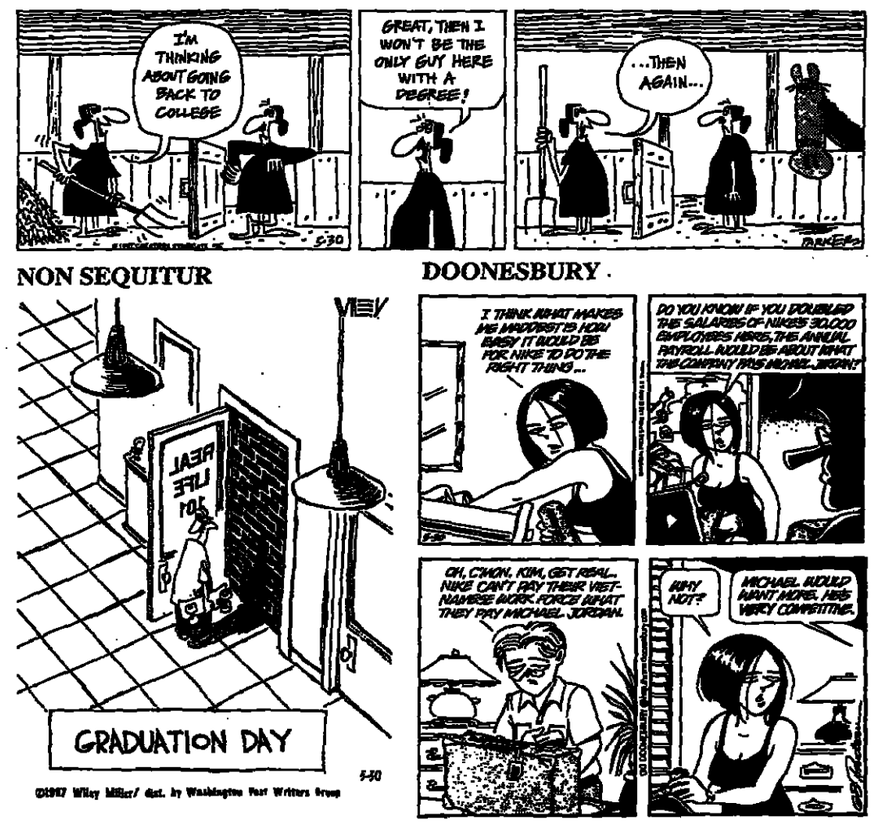
Jimmy Key (9-1) allowed one run and six hits in six innings, stopping Detroit's three-game winning streak.

Angels 14, Athletics 10 Geronimo Berroa dropped a routine two-out fly ball in right field, helping visiting Anaheim to a five-run ninth inning. Mark McGwire homered twice for Oakland, raising his total to 19.

Red Sox 5, White Sox 3 Mike Stanley delivered the game-winning hit for the second consecutive night as Boston survived home runs from Frank Thomas and Albert Belle.

Twins 3, Brewers 1 Ron Coomer and Darrin Jackson homered in the seventh in Minneapolis and Brad Radke (4-4) allowed one runs and six hits in eight-plus innings for the Twins.





JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GANTY
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DAGOIA
DOGOLY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A "□□" □□□

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OBSERVER

Turn Down the Noise

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — An enraged horn-blower welcomes us to New York. He is on our rear fender at the Holland Tunnel and furious because we are trying to escape a traffic lane bearing us inexorably to Boston or Asbury Park, depending on which sign you believe.

This horn hates us for trying to reach midtown Manhattan, and we hate it back, though not without fear. Motorized gun-toters are much in the news these days.

Though we shake him, the shriek of thousands of other car horns continues all the way to 42d Street. It is as bad as Paris in the old days when every driver honked his way through every intersection, even at 3 A.M. This ended only after General de Gaulle, who wanted to get some sleep, decreed that anyone blowing a car horn would go straight to the guillotine.

Monsieur Giuliani, alas, is no de Gaulle. This is why they call New York "the city that never sleeps."

□

Ears ringing, we go to Broadway to see "The Life." I We believe "The Life" has a wonderful musical score. That's because the music is by Cy Coleman, who writes wonderful music. The singers and musicians, however, are miked as loud as heavy-metal rockers blasting 100,000 fans in Central Park.

Not content with making the lyrics unintelligible, the amplifiers threaten to blow us all the way out of the theater and into 46th Street. Cy, baby, didn't Ethel Merman used to do this work with nothing but lungs?

Through screaming horns and sirens we go to eat. Six men at a restaurant table are shouting jovialities to each other. Drinks occur. Their table becomes a cone of jolly uproar. It is hard to imagine what could happen to normal ears trapped at that table.

We assume these men are blooded New Yorkers for whom intolerable noise is a comfortable way of life. A local man, however, believes they are moneymakers from Wall Street who naturally become overwrought by a daily routine of praying the market will never again decline.

Such Wall Street diners are said to infest the city at sundown, filling restaurants with the happy roars of people whose idea of a good time is a big day in pork bellies.

Travel through screaming horns and sirens, incidentally, introduces the traveler to the culture of Islam, which provides the city's cab drivers, some of whom know a little English.

We ride with a variety of these surprisingly dynamic people from faraway places. On one trip our destiny is in the hands of a man who appears to have learned driving in a place where his was the only car in the entire country. For him, going up Eighth Avenue at 50 miles an hour, it is nothing to cut across three lanes of traffic in a single swerve, while listening to a shrieking radio voice talking at 100,000 words a second in, the driver says, Egyptian.

As in nearly all New York taxis, we are pinned inescapably in a tiny back seat created by a prize-winning designer of torture devices.

Still, with $10 million to buy an apartment, we would never live anyplace else, you hear? You hear? Do we have to shout?

New York Times Service

The Power and the Music: Conlon's First Season

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — Close to completing his first season as principal conductor of the Paris National Opera, James Conlon has fulfilled the first requirement of a high-risk job in an environment infamous for political intrigue, labor troubles, power struggles and quick-to-heckle music lovers: He has survived.

Conlon, the first American to hold the top musical post at the Paris Opera, has done more than that. Arriving with a solid reputation among professionals but a modest public profile, the 47-year-old New Yorker has quickly earned the respect of French critics and audiences alike for his interpretation of operas by Puccini, Verdi, Wagner and Debussy.

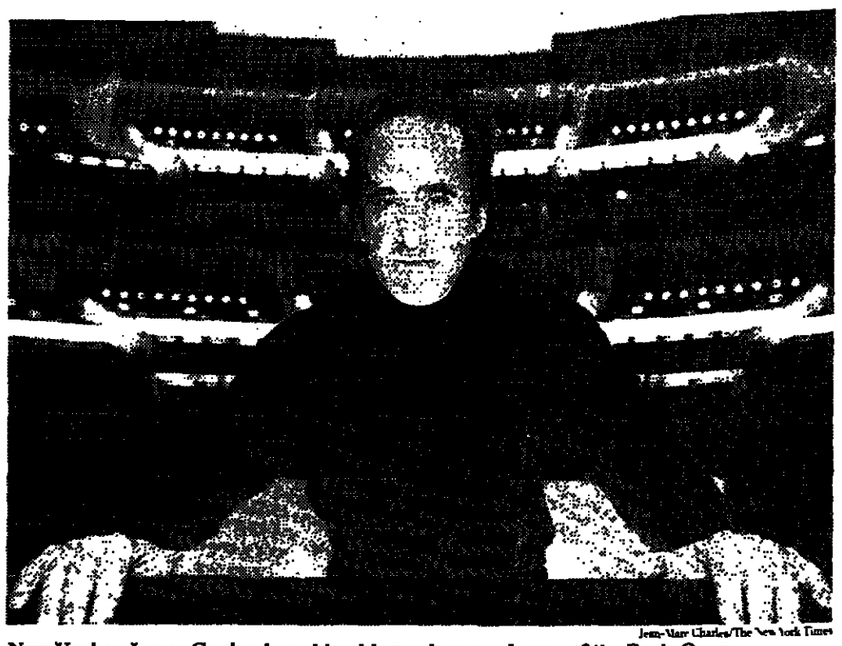
Yet musical talent alone is clearly not enough to provide job security here, as Conlon's immediate predecessors, Daniel Barenboim and Myung-Whun Chung, learned to their cost. Both were victims of political change, summarily dismissed when new governments replaced the management teams that had originally named them.

All too aware of the risks involved when he accepted the job in March 1995, Conlon is still stoic about them. "Anyone who makes a prediction of how long he's going to stay at the Paris Opera is a fool," he said with a laugh. "If it lasts until the end of my contract in 2001, I will be happy. If it stops before then, I will have expected it."

For the moment, he looks safe, not least because he continues to please the man who hired him, Hugues Gall, the tough theater administrator who in 1995 officially took over the Paris Opera. Gall's mandate was to bring order to the troubled institution, which runs both the Palais Garnier, the city's 19th-century opera house, and the new Bastille Opera.

"I had known James Conlon for many years," said Gall, who came to Paris after 15 years as head of the Geneva Opera. "He has great experience of opera; he speaks very good French; he loves France; he wanted to come to France. I said to him: 'Let's try. We are friends. Maybe we will remain friends.' Now I am convinced it was one of the best decisions I have taken."

From the start, the rules of the game were clear. With his calendar filled by prior engagements, Conlon served as music adviser, and conducted only "La Boheme" in Paris, during the 1995-96 season.



Jean-Marc Charles/The New York Times
New Yorker James Conlon is making his mark as conductor of the Paris Opera.

Then, in August last year, he began a five-year contract as principal conductor — and not, it was emphasized, as music director, the title held by Barenboim and Chung.

"We all know that the one thing that doesn't work in Paris is when two people have different views on how to run things," said Conlon, a stocky, mop-haired graduate of the Juilliard School. "I give Mr. Gall all the advice he wants, but he doesn't have to listen to it. He has all the power; he takes all the decisions. He wants to be the boss, and he is the boss."

This suits Conlon fine. "I'm not interested in power," he said over lunch at a restaurant beside the Bastille Opera. "Anyway, the only real power you have as a conductor or a musician is the power to move people with your music."

So, despite the labor troubles that can still cause headaches (this season, strikes have forced four operas to be presented in concert and one to be canceled), Conlon has focused his energies on music, not only on conducting Debussy's "Pelleas et Melisande," Wagner's "Lohengrin" and Verdi's "Rigoletto," but also on working with the Paris Opera orchestra and chorus.

In 1989, the orchestra was widely considered to be mediocre. Chung began its transformation, bringing in fresh blood. And under Conlon, who has added 20 new instrumentalists, it has continued to improve. "These days, France's No. 1 orchestra is to be found in the pit at the Bastille," Richard Fairman, a music critic of The Financial Times of London, wrote recently.

Conlon could not be happier with his orchestra. And he is well placed to make comparisons. After spending the 1970s as a guest conductor in Europe and the United States, he served as music director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic from 1983 to 1991. In 1989 he became general music director for the city of Cologne and chief conductor of the Cologne Opera. He remains general music director in Cologne and music director of the Cincinnati May Festival.

"American orchestras are considered the most technically proficient and disciplined in the world," he said. "The English are also very fast and professional. They have to be because there is no government largesse. They have to live by their wits. Things go more slowly in Germany. They want to know 'why' all the time. I may know the answer by instinct — why there is a dot, not a dash, in the score — but they want it explained.

"French musicians are, well, French — bright, fast, moody. They want it right the second or third time. They get bored easily. You can feel their quick mercurial spirit. I have enjoyed every minute of working here. It's a very bright, very gifted orchestra. Some of my colleagues say, 'You must be crazy.' It may not be for everyone, but I love it."

It probably helps that it is not in his character to be authoritarian, but he also believes that the era of the maestro-dictator is over. "In Anglo-Saxon countries, it is a given that everyone plays as a team," he said. "In Latin countries, you can't be authoritarian because they're not interested in authority. They're interested in fantasy and imagination and pleasure. If you can invoke pleasure for them, you'll get great results."

Still, if Conlon is happy with what is happening in the pit, he is often less enthusiastic when he raises his eyes toward the stage and the opera production that he is accompanying. Time and again, in Paris and other European cities, audiences cheer soloists, chorus, orchestra and conductor — and then heartily boo director and designer.

"I am very open about theater; I like innovation; I like interesting things," he said. "But unfortunately what I see too much of these days is directors using operas as vehicles for their own vanity, appropriating the works for their own career or feeling the works aren't strong enough on their own and must be made relevant to modern audiences. For me, the dramatist is the composer."

Indeed, as if trying to rescue operas from directors, Conlon frequently performed operas in concert in Cologne. In Paris, though, this occurs only when stagehands go on strike. "My premiere of 'Lohengrin' was like that," Conlon said, "and I was very happy that there was a big public at the end screaming its heads off. As a musician, that reassured me."

Dylan Has Acute Chest Illness

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bob Dylan is being treated for a chest infection that forced him to cancel an forthcoming European tour.

"His condition has been diagnosed as histoplasmosis, a potentially fatal infection which creates a swelling of the sac which surrounds the heart," Columbia Records said in a statement.

Dylan, who turned 56 on Saturday, was admitted to an undisclosed hospital over the weekend with severe chest pains, the statement said.

Dr. Jeffrey Gold, chairman of the cardiothoracic surgery department at Montefiore-Einstein Medical Center in the Bronx, said histoplasmosis carries "pneumonia-like symptoms" and people can be infected for "20 or 30 years before it causes trouble." "Sometimes it just heals itself," other times antibiotics are required, and in advanced stages, surgery or draining the pericardium — the sac around the heart — is necessary, Gold said.

Stefan Rousseau/Agence France-Presse
Dylan canceled European tour.

PEOPLE

THE Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist **Jules Feiffer**, whose 40 years of work in The Village Voice helped define the alternative weekly, has quit the paper over a salary dispute with the new editor, **Donald Forst**. "It's not that I've slipped," said Feiffer, 68. "It's that I'm too expensive." Feiffer, who made $75,000 a year at The Voice, was told by Forst that the paper wanted to discontinue Feiffer's fee but still run his syndicated column, paying Universal Press Syndicate $200 a week, The New York Times reported. Feiffer rejected the offer, and also turned down a counterproposal for a Voice staff position with a salary of $20,000 and benefits. Forst, who has let go the humor columnist **Cynthia Heimel** and stopped using cartoonists **Matt Groening** and **Lynda Barry**, said his decision on Feiffer was only logical. "I had a lot of things I wanted to do when I got here, and this is one of them," said Forst, who took over in October. "The list is far from being all ticked off."

□

For the fifth time this year, **Michael Aris** stepped up to a podium to receive an honorary degree on behalf of his wife, the Burmese opposition leader, **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**. She was among recipients of awards from The American University of Paris. Although formally released from house arrest, the Nobel Peace Prize winner is still under tight surveillance by Burma's military regime and reported to fear that if she left the county she would not be allowed back in. The American University also honored the novelist **Carlos Fuentes**, the filmmaker **Marcel Ophuls**, the lawyer **Joseph S. Iseman** and the former president of CBS News, **Van Gordon Sauter**, who delivered the commencement address.

□

Former employees at **Michael Jackson's** Neverland Ranch in California who unsuccessfully sued the pop star were ordered to pay $1.4 million in costs. The ex-employees sued Jackson and five staffers, claiming they were forced out for cooperating in a child molestation probe, among other reasons. In March, a jury rejected the former employees' suit and awarded Jackson $60,000 in damages in a countersuit, and now a judge has ordered them to pay attorney fees and costs, including those for filings, jury fees, depositions, witnesses and transcripts.

□

Peter Osnos, a former vice president of Random House's Adult Trade Books and former publisher of Times Books, will become publisher and chief executive of a new nonfiction publishing company, Public Affairs. The new house will specialize in books by public figures, journalists, historians and social critics.

□

Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia never had a honeymoon when he wed **Erma Ora James**, a coal miner's daughter and his high school sweetheart, on May 29, 1937. They just couldn't afford it. And so on their 60th anniversary Thursday, where did Byrd squire his beloved? To the dedication of the new Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Main Facility, in Clarksburg, West Virginia. But don't laugh. The couple will also spend a few days at a resort.

□

William Styron has donated the manuscript of his latest book, "A Tidewater Morning: Three Tales from Youth," to Duke University, his alma mater. He also gave letters with correspondents including **John Updike**, **Eudora Welty**, **Ralph Ellison** and **Lillian Hellman**, awards, and photographs. Styron graduated from Duke in 1947.

□

The comedian **Tim Allen** was charged with drunken driving after being caught speeding in Bloomfield Township, Michigan. The "Home Improvement" star appeared unsteady when he was stopped and failed sobriety tests, according to newspapers citing a police report. Allen, who has a home in suburban Detroit, served about two years in prison on cocaine charges in the 1970s.

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